



LOG CABINS CREW & FRIENDS!

C/TFN Neek Watsíx

(Caribou News)

Spring 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Land Interests Act Passed!

by Daphne Pelletier Vernier

After many years of community consultation and hard work The Carcross/Tagish First Nation approved the Land Interests Act on Sunday March 6th at the C/TFN General Council in Carcross, Yukon.

The Land Interests Act is the next step, ten years into Self-Government, in providing certainty on C/TFN lands that will allow for responsible development for the present and future generations of C/TFN Citizens. The law also affirms that sacred underlying rights on Settlement Lands, which are thousands of years old, remain solely within the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. The law begins an important step in realizing the long-term goal of establishing a complete lands management regime for all of C/TFN Settlement Lands. The Land Interests Act's main objectives are three fold:

- ➔ The first is to provide C/TFN Citizens with the opportunity to access leases to occupy land for residential purposes. By providing Citizens with leases for home ownership, C/TFN will directly address the lack of quality housing that C/TFN Citizens are facing today.

- ➔ The second objective is to potentially open C/TFN lands up in a sustainable way for economic development purposes in order to help create an economy for the C/TFN Citizens, in keeping with plans created by the C/TFN community.

- ➔ The last and most important objective is to ensure C/TFN lands are protected for our future generations. All decisions to grant interest in Settlement Land will rest with the Clan-based decision-makers of C/TFN.

Without the support of First Nations Market Housing Fund, C/TFN would not be able to move forward with the new Land Interests Act. C/TFN has taken a broad base approach in working with the First Nations Market Housing Fund to develop a template approach that can be utilized by other First Nation communities across Canada to realize market based housing that is rooted in strong land-use planning and overall protection of the environment.



Ice Fishing Culture Camp

The Department of Health & Wellness organized, during spring break, an Ice Fishing Culture Camp to learn how to ice fish and set up nets. The event was a great success and Whitefish was caught and distributed to Elders.

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7 wonders of Infrastructure

Updates on all different projects the Department of Infrastructure is working on.

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Judas Creek Placer Mine Application

by Daphne Pelletier Vernier

As you may be aware, there is an application submitted to YESAB under file #2015-0204, for a proposed Placer Mine at Judas Creek. The Government of Carcross/Tagish First Nation has filed an intervention with respect to this application, and is unequivocally opposed to this proposed Placer Mine in C/TFN Traditional Territory, and in the heart of caribou habitat. On March 22nd 2016 a letter was sent to Premier Darrell Pasloski to explain why GC/TFN is against this application of 52 gold claims.

GC/TFN's constitutional rights within its Final Agreement, in schedule B to Chapter 16 Section 3.3 expressly provides that "C/TFN and Government shall cooperate to coordinate their respective land and resource management activities in manner that identifies and protects critical habitat of the herd through available mechanisms in this Agreement and through other existing regulatory processes".

The people of C/TFN are and will forever remain people of the caribou and Judas Creek has been identified as an area of critical winter range for the Carcross Caribou



Herd. The impact for Caribou populations in the Southern Lakes region, precipitated the need for conservation programs such as, the Carcross Caribou Recovery Program, the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Program and the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee. For the past 27 years, C/TFN has voluntarily refrained from harvesting caribou to allow for the Carcross Caribou Herd to replenish. This effort has led to a generation that have been denied its own Aboriginal Rights. Additional to the Caribou herd, Judas Creek has an historical existence and use of Chinook salmon. Judas

Creek is also part of a Heritage Route and GC/TFN does not support the use of Heritage Route for any mining development activities that may destroy historical integrity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

The YESAB Online Registry (YOR) is the electronic registry that allows public access to documents and information associated with assessments under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA). www.yesab.ca or call C/TFN HLNLR Department

Land Use Planning Process

by Daphne Pelletier Vernier



The Heritage, Lands and Natural Resources department has a fully booked agenda for 2016. To move forward with the distribution of Lands to Citizens for residential, commercial or agricultural use, 3 main Acts and Legislative processes needs to be approved (**Land Interests Act, Planning & Development Act and Land Titles Act**). In order to start allocating Lands, it is important for Citizens to understand the process for each Act.

- 1- Elaboration of Draft Documents
- 2- Consultation with the Community
- 3- Approval from Executive Council
- 4- Approval from General Council

First of all, as you all know, the **Land Interests Act** has been approved but the

regulations of the Act are still pending for approval from EC and GC. Approval should be done early this summer.

Second, the **Planning & Development Act** is not approved either, and is at the community consultation stage that is planned for May 4 from 3-8pm at the Carcross Curling Club. The Planning & Development Act will be brought forward to EC & GC for approval in June.

Lastly, the **Land Titles Act** just got drafted along with 4 others First Nations (Tr'ondek Hwech'in, Teslin, Champagne Aishihik and Ta'an Kwach'an) and will be going into community consultation soon. HLNLR is hoping to have the Land Titles Act approved by the end of this year.

HEALTH & WELLNESS DAY!



Getting Ready...

Leona Bryden and Leslie Grant are setting up the food for the Health & Wellness Fair!



Big Winner!

Chase Narcisse was the winner of the Children Bicycle. He also won a bike helmet and his dad (Al Narcisse) won a blender and a book!



Health & Wellness Department

by Wendy Burgess

Health & Wellness Day!

On March 24th, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Health and Wellness Department held a Wellness Fair at the main C/TFN administration building. The community was invited to participate in the Wellness Fair by coming by, entering door prize draws and checking out various healthy living information and activity booths.

The purpose of the Wellness Day was to demonstrate aspects of healthy living to the Carcross community and for people to learn about available Carcross and Whitehorse healthy lifestyle resources.

18 different agencies took part in the day. Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services, Victim Services, Diabetes information, Carcross Health Centre, Car Seat Safety, Log Cabin crew, Blood Ties Four Directions, CAIRRS, RPAY, Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and FASSY held a few of the booths.

Participants could make a smoothie, have a healthy lunch or snack, have a manicure, haircut or foot care done or talk to organization representatives at each table.

Some of the expertise included: Ida Calmagane teaching about traditional medicines; Blood Ties Four Directions teaching about communicable diseases; counsellors from Many Rivers; RPAY giving tips about active living; car seat safety demonstrations showing how to keep your child safe in their car seat while travelling; Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre talking about the services they offer including a women's advocate and free Wednesday lunches; nurses from Carcross Health Centre doing blood pressure checks and giving tips and answering questions on healthy living. Near the end of the day, the Zumba instructor took us all outside for a few lively Zumba dances.

There were lots of door prizes won, including crock pots, blenders, food processors, walking poles, bikes and helmets, cook books and health and food baskets.

The day was an overwhelming success with about 200 people participating, and many positive comments about the day coming from those that attended. The Health and Wellness Team looks forward to putting together another successful day like this again soon.



Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt!

On Thursday March 31st a group of moms and their children went with Wendy Burgess (CPNP, Health and Wellness Department) to Whitehorse to participate in a grocery store scavenger hunt. The moms met at C/TFN at 9:30am and we were ready to leave by 10. On the drive in, Wendy gave directions for the day. All moms were to plan a complete meal for their family. The meal must contain all 4 food groups. Wendy had recipe ideas and copies of the Canada Food Guide on hand, if anyone needed resources. In the van we had lots of discussion about what a

healthy meal looks like, what foods could be included, and how they can be prepared.

Everyone was given a pad of paper and a pen to make notes and a shopping list. Before we went into the store, individuals had their shopping lists prepared. Participants knew their shopping carts would be checked for healthy foods and they were to choose fresh ingredients whenever possible. Furthermore, participants would be given prizes for choosing healthy meal ingredients and products that were the best value for the money. Prizes would be household cooking supplies. The moms spent about an hour in

the grocery store finding their food products. Wendy went from cart to cart suggestions and giving ideas about certain cuts of meat, different vegetable products, and other grocery store tips. After shopping everyone went to the Canada Games Centre and ordered from Subway. Subway seemed to be a suitable choice for a healthy and reasonably priced fast food meal. The group talked about what would be the healthiest choices from Subway. While at the Canada Games Centre the children were able to play while their parents ate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To know more on the CPNP Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Program

CONTACT WENDY BURGESS
(867) 821-425 EXT. 8263
WENDY.BURGESS@CTFN.CA



Ice Fishing Culture Camp

by Daphne Pelletier Vernier



March 9th, 10th and 11th were the 3 days of the Ice Fishing Culture Camp organized by the Department of Health and Wellness. The main objectives of this cultural event was the sharing of traditional knowledge, some story telling on the Land and to learn how to set up nets and fillet fish.

On the first day, the equipment brought for the event wasn't working properly but this brought staff and participants to come together and find a solution which worked out really well! On the second day, the camp crew went back on the lake and with the equipment working, everyone was able to set up the nets properly. On the third and last day, everyone went to check out the nets and creator was good because there were fish in the nets!!! The team gathered back to the C/TFN main administration building for some prizes draw and Eileen Wally showed youth how to fillet fish. The fish was distributed to Elders in the community.



7 wonders of Infrastructure!

by Daphne Pelletier Vernier

C/TFN Department of infrastructure has been extremely busy lately with many projects on the go. Nelson Lepine, Director of the Department, explains the 7 main projects on his agenda.

1. The Learning Centre

C/TFN Learning Centre continues to make progress as the opening is planned to be at the end of September 2016. Here are the onsite updates since March;

- Drainage in building B complete and tested
- Drywall sub trade to start in basement of building B
- HVAC trade on site and working away now
- Sprinkler trades on site and bending and placing pipe
- Building B floor insulation complete
- Exterior weather barrier and strapping complete
- Roof Cladding to begin in the next 10 days
- Currently working on overhangs
- Painters finishing stain on columns inside
- All cement board siding on site
- Steel stud on site and layout complete

15 C/TFN Citizens are working on the Learning Centre and 11 of them are from the Tiny Homes crew. 1 Citizen is working with the electrician, 1 with the mechanical contractor and 1 more on the roof team! The Department is really pushing forward the integration of C/TFN Citizens in their projects to motivate them into developing new skills, either physical, mental, emotional and/or spiritual.

2. Recycling Project

Rozlyn James is currently gathering as much information she can to develop a recycling project in the community. The project still needs to be approved by the Executive Council but so far, things are looking good...or Greener! Rozlyn mentioned it would consist on recycling from the 3 C/TFN buildings; Capacity Development, Infrastructure (Capital) and the Main Administration building. If the projects get accepted, Rozlyn will be looking for one volunteer per building to be responsible for maintaining the recycling bins. There will also be coffee grounds collection to be brought up the green house for compost. In a long term planning, Rozlyn says she would

like to see all 3 C/TFN buildings composting for the community gardens.

3. Wind Energy

C/TFN Department of Infrastructure is currently doing a feasible study on wind energy in Carcross. There is 8 monitoring stations near the Northwest tower over at Grey Ridge. At this time, C/TFN is waiting for DATA to see if wind energy would be a considerable option and if so, how much energy would it produce for the area.

4. Solar Panels

Infrastructure Department is working closely with Yukon College on a training program for renewable energy; solar thermal, wind, solar, geothermal... Nelson Lepine, Director of the Department, is hoping to have solar panels on the roof of the Learning Centre and on all new constructions for the community.

5. Tiny Homes

Director Nelson Lepine is happy to announce a project up to \$1.4 Million (from CMITC) for 10 new constructions for the Tiny Homes project; 5 Tiny Homes and 5 regular size homes.

6. Apartment Building

Mr. Lepine is currently planning on a 12 unit's apartment building for the community. Each unit will consist on a 1 full bedroom space. Location still need to be determined.

7. Log Cabins

Last February, a Potluck at Skookies Camp was held to announce the second round of the Log Cabins. Many workers were recognized for their hard work and given a certificate of appreciation with a Home Hardware gift card. The first round of the Log Cabins project consisted on replacing 3 tent frames with 3 log cabins. The first round also added 2 more cabins to the project for wildlife monitoring; one is up Montana Mountain and the other one is on the Annie Lake road. The second round of the Log Cabins will count a total of 3 new cabins.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



Annie Lake Monitoring Cabin

First Round Lob Cabin used for monitoring wildlife over on the Annie Lake Road.



Log Cabins Construction Crew

Construction crew working with the Instructor Al Narcisse from Chase B.C.



Learning Centre

Guided visit with Nelson Lepine of the Learning Centre project phase I of \$12.8 Million.



What's going on at Capacity?

by Geraldine James

Good day to all. Capacity Development oversees, develops and implements programming and services for the Early Childhood Education Center, K-12 Education, Training and Post-Secondary Education, Transitional Employment, Youth Program and the Independent Learning Center.

My most heartfelt gratitude to the Education Advisory Committee for their ongoing work, guidance and support; and ALL my staff for all the hard work that they do on behalf of our C/TFN citizens!

As Director of the Capacity Department, I sit on C/TFN Management Board and I represent C/TFN at the First Nations Education Commission (FNEC). Our alternate at FNEC is our Education Program & Services Coordinator. The Commission works toward common and unified strategies and recommendations aimed at advancing Yukon First Nations education; improving student learning outcomes for YFN students and improving the involvement and engagement of YFN students, parents, families and communities in the school system. At the FNEC table I have also been involved in receiving updates on the "Yukon wide Literacy Strategy", meetings on this are ongoing and the Strategy will be formally signed off on sometime this year, our Departments Education Manager sits at this table.

I have also been involved with the "Yukon Education Financial Act". Yukon Government staff came out to Carcross/Tagish and did a presentation to our Executive Council on what areas they want to see change with the YG Education Financial Act. This "ACT" will be public on the YG Education website for all Yukoners to see. One thing that our citizens need to be aware of is that they do qualify for YG Educational Assistance and that if they are going to school out of the Yukon on YG funding that the student HAS to retain their Yukon driver's license, a Yukon address and their Yukon Health Care Card or if it changes then YG will assume that they are NOT coming home and will no longer qualify.

Our Department staff also represents C/TFN on the Labor Market Strategy (Career Manager), YTG Diversity Committee (EP&SC) and the Yukon College's President's Advisory Committee on First Nations Initiatives (Career Manager and alternate

Education, Employment Training Officer), Yukon College's Community Campus (Career Manager), YTG Representative Public Service Plan (EETO), Gadzoosdaa Student Resident Advisory Committee (Education Support Worker) and the Food Sustainability Team (Transitional Employment Coordinator).

In 2014/15, C/TFN Capacity team, with the assistance of the Council of Yukon First Nation Statistics Agency and Education departments, embarked on a visioning journey through the development of a C/TFN Five Year Strategic Plan for K-12 education. This journey was entirely community driven and comprised an extensive consultation process that included regular meetings with the project team, meetings with the C/TFN Executive Council, Education Advisory Committee, Clans, school teams and the Department of Education staff, community meetings in both Carcross and Tagish as well as a community survey that reached C/TFN citizens living outside Yukon. The strategic plan is now in draft form. Over the next few months C/TFN will be working with leadership, partners and citizens to finalize the strategic plan. Please contact Capacity at any time for additional details.

My staff have been busy with summer jobs proposals and youth employment programming applications. Capacity has submitted to the federal governments Youth Skill Link, Canada Summer Jobs and Career Focus. Yukon Government Advance Education is a partner in the Youth Skills Link program and if accepted will bring employment, training and certification to approximately 50 youth from April 2016 to February 2017. Stay tuned for your earliest updates.

Our Department also hosted and facilitated a Workshop/Conference this January initially targeting 20-30 people at our Capacity building. Interest and participation far exceeded those expectations. So much so, the venue moved from Carcross to Whitehorse to accommodate participant interest.

This was initiated in December 2015, a C/TFN Citizen approached Capacity to seek support to invite Rupert Ross and Dr. Lee Brown to Carcross to facilitate a session with staff and Citizens working or involved in the criminal justice system, healing and trauma responses

when working with Aboriginal people, as line workers, governments and institutions.

Rupert Ross was an Assistant Crown Attorney in Kenora, Ontario for 26 years, until his retirement in 2011. He conducted criminal prosecutions in over 20 remote, fly-in First Nation communities in northwestern Ontario, including more than 20 homicide prosecutions. He sought ways to make the criminal justice system more responsive to the present-day needs and cultural traditions of aboriginal people. He was seconded twice to work with (1) Aboriginal Justice Directorate of the federal Department of Justice, where he traveled the country exploring the Indigenous insistence that justice should center upon healing relationships and (2) the First Nations & Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada, working with the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the National Native Alcohol and Drug Addiction Program, investigating indigenous approaches to individual, family and community healing.

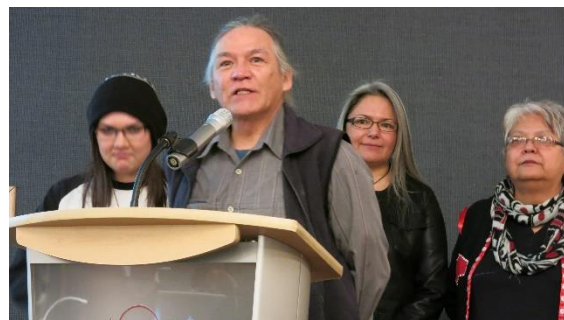
Dr. Lee Brown is the former coordinator of the Indigenous Doctoral Program in the Department of Educational Studies at The University of British Columbia where he wrote his thesis entitled: Making the Classroom a Healthy Place: The Development of Affective Competency in Aboriginal Pedagogy. He is the co-author of The Sacred Tree, an educational curriculum based in Aboriginal values and epistemology.

Tonya Gomes has a Masters of Counselling Psychology and is a Registered Clinical Counsellor (BCACC). She has proven therapeutic, clinical supervision and educators skills achieved through her 25 years clinical and educator experience. She is a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) specialist.

Workshops and topics covered include: Exploring the psychological damage of residential schools (The Phenomenon of silence, learned helplessness, complex PTSD, emotional suppression, socio-cultural shame, the attraction of alcohol and drugs, the damage done to Aboriginal society); Creating Emotional Competency in Canada's Education and Justice Systems; Collective Accountability, working with First Nations youth; and Aboriginal Healing: Twelve Striking Differences (The special focus on Spirit, The Definition of a "Healthy Person", The Reliance on Group Healing, Individual Healing Grounded in Social Healing, Restoration of the Emotional Realm, Ceremonies and Catharsis, The Uniqueness of Aboriginal Healers, Respect for the Worth

of Everyone, The Belief That It's Not Always Necessary to Talk Your Way Back to Health, The Importance of Land in the Healing Journey, the Adoption of Complementary Western Therapies and Healing as a Lifelong Effort).

The media covered the event, and interest was so high, that we were forced to move the conference to Whitehorse to accommodate the number of people registering. They were beyond excited to have three people of this caliber come and share their knowledge with us. On the last day of the conference, there was over 400 people in attendance. Several Yukon First Nations shared the cost of hosting the event and button blanket dance and 50/50 draws were used. The participants were appreciative and enthusiastically helped raise money to cover costs. KDFN partnered with us and gave us a much reduced rate for using the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre.



Garden Report

by Kevin Bayne

In 2015, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation in partnership with Yukon College advised a proposal to the Canadian and Northern Economic Development Agency's (Can Nor) Investment Program and succeeded in a grant to build a 20x20 starter/seed house. Through the grant, the hiring of a onetime garden development coordinator will oversee the project from start to finish. We are glad to let everyone know that the position was filled by Kevin Bayne.

Well folks, it was another great season at the community garden this year. Although the weather was not permitting to our favor, all went well, we would like to thank all departments and volunteers that pitched in to make it a phenomenal year. The yield for this year's fresh produce was a staggering 2,153.8 LBS with a great majority of the weight of, 1,382.2 lb. going to the potatoes. The Carcross Community Garden project is an annual project that gives students a chance to have summer employment and also receive work experience with in their first nation. It gives them confidence, communication skills, and builds self-esteem, all which reflect on future job requirements in their future work endeavors. In June, there were two students hired till the end of

August for the 2015 summer, but with school starting in Whitehorse, two other students that start school on a later date were hired to help with the final harvest. Without all their hard work, the year would not have been a huge success, thank you.

Throughout the year, from the end of June to the end of August, all the produce is given first to the elders, single parents, members with illness & disabilities and then a small majority of the weeks harvest is sold at the commons to everyone willing to purchase the fresh produce. About one hundred pounds of produce was donated to many different departments for events to do with education, retreats, parental programs and elders' breakfasts. This year at one of the elders' breakfasts, the student had a chance to sit and talk with the elders of the community and receive phrasal about all the hard work they did each year, and to keep up the great work. Although we gave some deals to different organizations, our grand total sales for this year was: \$ 821.75. This year's sales will be put in to the next year's budget to be used for seeds and tools for next season. The starter/seed house building will house the annual seed bank, germination of seeds through (February until May) during

the annual gestation period until they mature and ready to be transplanted in mid-May. The starter/seed house will be located between the Capital Projects building and the Quonset Hut storage building. To date, we will be starting the starter/seed house at the end of the month with a complete date of March 31, 2016. We would like to thank all capacity and all the departments for their commitment and hard work throughout the year.

Capacity Development Department is taking the lead in developing a 25-year Food Sustainability plan. Networking with representatives of our community, all GC/TFN departments, our Development Corporation, and Yukon College. We will work together to bring experts to help develop the plan. The recent garden survey will be analyzed and another survey will be conducted after consultation with the experts about key questions to be included in the survey. The development of an overall strategy plan will be a 2016 focus. The Land Management Team will be tasked to select land that is suitable for organic gardening with a goal of animal husbandry.



Career Manager's Report

by Corinne Carvill

Greetings all! I would like to start off this newsletter by expressing Capacity's gratitude to our late Yan Yeidi Clan Education Advisory Committee representative Butch (Albert Sr.) Beattie. Your contributions, wisdom and inclusive manner is an inspiration to all of us.

Beverly Sembsmoen has joined the capacity team. Beverly's new role is Transitional Employment Coordinator. Beverly's professionalism, technical skills and corporate knowledge continues to benefit our Nation. Gunalcheesh!

Message from Your Clan Representatives:

The Education Advisory Committee (EAC) would like to acknowledge all C/TFN students who are working hard to complete their career goals.

EAC encourages all of you to keep up with your studies because your successes are felt by all of us. *"We are opening the 'box of wisdom' together, Gunalcheesh for doing your best."*

- EAC encourages students to contact your respective Clan representatives and/or any one of the members regarding your education needs.
- Some Clans have not provided an alternate for EAC. EAC encourage Clan's to appoint their alternate representatives to ensure everyone is represented at the table. Thank you to everyone who have confirmed their alternate appointments.

- It is important that students are aware of how EAC prioritizes funding for post-secondary programs. 1. First priority is continuing students, 2. Second priority is new applicants, and 3. Fully committed funds; applications are placed in order by date stamp for access should funds become available. 4. Students who take education breaks between multiyear degree programs will be designated priority 2. as a new applicant.
- EAC have completed a number of policy. Highlights are: increases to living allowances and requirement to seek external funding sources in addition to C/TFN education funds.

Yukon Government, Community Training Fund – C/TFN has been successful in negotiating a three year Agreement to increase opportunities for employment. This fund is open to all residents living in the in Carcross, Tagish or surrounding areas. The fund is limited. First come, first serve.

Since June 2015, many C/TFN youth and adults have participated in the following Excellence Series International (ESI) programs:

- Youth Pursuit of Excellence
- Excellence Series: 1. Pursuit of Excellence, 2. The Wall, and 3. Advancement of Excellence

All past participants will be invited back in April 2016 for excellence sustainment

sessions with myself, twice a month. Our graduates are masters in their personal development by role modeling the tools learned during the series and modeling changing patterns. Some of these tools are:

- Truth
- 100% Accountability
- Full Participation
- Congruency
- Above the line etc...

See Beverly's report for more details.

Career counselling as follows:

Individual career exploration and planning – Guiding Circles

- Business owner development and communication strategies
- Resumes and Cover letters
- Interview support
- Job search

We are mobile. If you are unable to attend the office or access online services here in Carcross, we will meet you in either Whitehorse, Tagish, Squanga or Carcross.

Yukon College, Carcross Campus Committee has been busy supporting upgrading, gardening, candle making, chicken husbandry just to name a few. Please contact our local campus for updates on upcoming courses.

For more information, contact the Capacity Department Career Manager Corinne Carvill (867) 821-4251 ext. 8206

Pursuit of Excellence

by Beverly Sembsmoen

To date, we have 95 graduates of the Pursuit of Excellence; 69 graduates of the Wall; 46 graduates of Advancement of Excellence; 5 graduates of the Inside Passage; 1 graduate of Mastery 1 and 1 graduate of Mastery 2. We have been asked to bring more courses to our citizens. There are over 700 graduates of the Pursuit of Excellence in the Yukon. C/TFN has 52 Citizens eligible for Mastery series. This puts C/TFN at the highest percentage going through the series of any other YFN. Champagne/Aishihik First

Nation, Taan Kwachan Council, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council also have high numbers of participants with an estimated 150+ eligible participants for a Mastery 1 and 2 series.

C/TFN, CAFN & LSC/FN are going to be working together to bring Inside Passage, Mastery 1 and Master 2 to the Yukon. The 3 First Nations can work collaboratively to submit funding proposals to various funding agents. The idea is to get some people up to

those levels then have them deliver the program in the future. The feedback we are getting is very encouraging for community/family growth and development. It is especially gratifying to see the number of male participants increasing.

When/If our proposal is accepted, information and call for participants will be posted and advertised. For information on the Pursuit of Excellence Series, please visit www.excellenceseminars.com

Transitional Employment

by Beverly Sembsmoen

Greetings fellow C/TFN Citizens, I'm baaaaaack! Thank you for your love and support while I was off on medical leave. I am in remission and so very grateful to be back at work. As the former Implementation Official, I am enjoying this new job working as our Transitional Employment Co

ordinator. I am responsible for developing and implementing the Transitional Employment program within the ongoing evaluation of C/TFN circle of governance. The TE Coordinator provides job coaching support, facilitating and scheduling presenters to ensure the TE Program is in the medicine wheel as the basis or reengaging employment opportunities, education and support towards the independence of C/TFN Citizens. The mission of the Transitional Employment program is to provide an opportunity for C/TFN citizens to complete wellness processes, increase their life skills and employability attitudes, explore career paths, access training and education, and with coaching and mentoring support transition into sustainable long term employment, The program will contribute to the development of skills required to meet

the needs of employers while building

partnerships and networks with local employers. Working with C/TFN's economic development corporation and other Territorial governments, the program will also support the development of innovative businesses and self-employment opportunities. The vision of the Transitional Employment program is to maximize opportunities for the employment while ensuring our members have the potential to attain sustainable independent living. We will be guided by our virtues and values in our actions and our words. TE crew workers assist our community in a variety of ways. They work with every department of GC/TFN and assist Elders, Single Parents and medical patients with hauling fuel-wood, household appliances, cleaning walks, moving heavy furniture, elder's breakfast, community events and annual ceremonies. All requests for TE help are to go through the TE Coordinator for scheduling. The next intake of TE crew workers will be in May. There will be space for 4 TE workers. To be eligible, you must first have your TFA Outreach Worker put your name forward to the TE office. You will then undergo an interview for the 4 available positions. A Commitment Agreement will have to be entered into. As well, a personal Development Plan must be



completed as a part of your intake. There is a draft TE Policy and Procedures that was created in December 2011. Myra Isles, Director of Health & Wellness, Corrine Carvill, Career Manager and I will be picking these up with the new Policy Analyst (when hired) and fine tuning them for presentation to the Executive Council. In closing, I would like to remind Citizens that the TE crew work all over our Traditional Territory doing a variety of tasks. It is not reasonable to expect them to drop what they are scheduled to do so they can pick up what you want them to do immediately. Scheduling is important to this program. It is not a healing program; it is a job readiness program. With much love, respect and adoration.

Training Fund

by Sheena Johns

Need training to secure employment? Need work gear to secure employment? Want to go back to school? Carcross/Tagish First Nation has a new pot of money that can be accessed for work gear, training, or even tuition! The Carcross/Tagish Training Fund (C/TTF) is funded by the Yukon Government and administered by the C/TFN's Education/Employment & Training Officer. The C/TTF was established for Carcross and Tagish residents to support training that increases opportunities for employment. Applicants must be individual Carcross and Tagish area residents (regardless of ethnic background), who are Canadian Citizens or Landed Immigrants and they must be a resident for a period of one year prior to applying for funding.

Post-Secondary

by Sheena Johns

We currently have 24 students attending different universities throughout Canada. This is amazing! More and more citizens are wanting to get a higher education and I applaud all of them! C/TFN was able to raise their living allowance for the Post-Secondary students which I'm sure helps in tremendous ways. The March 15th deadline has passed and was for the 2016 summer semester. We have reached the max amount in our budgets which means the money is being spent, which means people are going to school. I couldn't be happier with this outcome. Since being the EETO I have heard nothing but great things from the students; their living allowances are on time and there is no more late fees for their tuition's being paid, which means less stress for the students and that is why I am here.

The process for applying for C/TFN funding has slightly changed. Before requesting funding from C/TFN you will be required to apply to other funding pots near you. You will also be required to submit letters from the places you applied for funding from to either say you were accepted for funding or denied. This is so that we can potentially fund more students for college or university.

The deadlines for Post-Secondary Funding:

Fall Semester.....June 1st
Winter Semester.....November 15th
Summer Semester. March 15th

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Sheena Johns
(Education/Employment
& Training Officer)
(867) 821-4251 ext. 8257
sheena.johns@ctfn.ca

Heritage Updates

by Derek Grose



It is a time of transition, change and settling in for the Heritage part of the Heritage Lands and Natural Resources Department. Derek Grose joined the team in mid-March and his position is Heritage Manager. The Heritage Office remains a busy place and continues to grow within our department. Here is an update on our activities:

Carving Program

Lead Carver Keith Wolfe-Smarch continues to guide and teach and share his knowledge to his junior Carver Aaron Smarch. Together, they will soon start carving the final Clan pole, now that the log is prepared for carving. Additionally, they are continuing to carve the thirty-five foot animal mother story

pole that will be unveiled alongside our other poles during the opening of the Potlatch House/Learning Center in the Fall of 2016.

Monday nights continue to be open nights at the carving shed with Keith for anyone interested in trying their hand at carving, or other cultural art and crafts are welcome to join Keith on these nights for some one on one instruction.

The Carving Center is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on weekdays (with a closure over the lunch hour) and again on Tuesday night from 6:00 to 9:00. The door is always open for citizens to drop by and see the work the carvers are doing.

Keith has been trapping Lynx and Beaver all winter with Aiden Joe and McKenzie Harper-Smarch. We hope to have some skinning and tanning workshops this summer as well as some beaver meat jarring workshops. We hope to give away and enjoy the jarred beaver meat during the opening celebration of our new Potlatch House/Learning Center in the Fall of 2016.

Language & Culture

Deborah Baerg continues to be busy leading

the "Language Nest" program alongside Winnie Atlin and Bessie Jim. They continue to teach the children songs, prayers, stories, names and phrases.

C/TFN Archives

We continue to work towards establishing a fully functional archives for C/TFN. This will generally include published material and material that has been collected either by or about C/TFN citizens and their history. We still look forward to having a secure facility for archival holdings including a resource center with the completion of Phase 2 of the Potlatch House/Learning Center scheduled sometime the begin construction as soon as possible once Phase 1 is complete.

We have recently received some leads on artifacts that were taken from our traditional lands. We will be developing a long-term work-plan to repatriate these sacred objects in the very near future.

Traditional Arts Grant

The Traditional Arts Grant has now be allocated for the year. We look forward to displaying the works here in the main administration building for a short time once the artists have completed their works.



Sharing traditional knowledge

Keith Wolfe Smarch is showing some Youth how to skin a beaver. Youth trapped some beavers and went back to the carving shed to learn how to skin them.



Easter Egg Hunt

Like every year, C/TFN hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids in the community. Great success, like always!!



Sharing traditional knowledge

Harvesting and cleaning Devil's Club to make Medicine.



Language Nest

by Deborah Baerg

Since May 2013 CTFN's Language Nest Staff work within C/TFN's Haa Yátk'i Hídi Daycare: Elder Winnie Atlin (Fluent Tlingit Speaker) Bessie Jim (Elder's Assistant) Deborah Baerg (Cultural Projects & Language Coordinator)

Ts'at'sée Kúdi

(Little Bird's Nest)

Nest Hours

Winnie Atlin works daily from Monday to Friday from 10am - 11am

Bessie works daily from approx. 10am – 11pm Monday to Friday

Deborah Baerg in office from Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm (except from 10am - 11am to help coordinate Language Nest with Winnie, Bessie & Ruth)

Each language lesson for the day begins with Tlingit Prayer by our Fluent Tlingit Elder Winnie. Thus far all children attending the daycare are doing very well at repeating the words in Tlingit back to our fluent speaker when ask to do so – I'm so amazed how fast most already know how to count to 10 in Tlingit and 1 or 2 of the older kids can count

all the way to 20 in Tlingit without any help from our any of us. We are trying to incorporate new styles of learning the language as most of the children attention spans are very short. If anyone out there has any great ideas please do not hesitate to call me so we can use them to benefit teaching the language in new and exciting ways!! When time allows we also sing Lingit lullabies to the babies and they are totally interested in all the little songs especially head & shoulders. Since we began our Language Nest in 2013 we now have a couple children who attend daycare on regular basis able to teach and share most of the language we use for our programming which also helps our daycare works learn along with the children

Since our last newsletter - we have noticed that teaching a language with movement works really well with all the children. We have incorporated games like Duck, Duck, Goose, What time is it Mr. Wolf, other TPR like games that involves more moving in the language. The week March 14 to 18 we also recently introduced a little trapping game using small animal finger puppets and a clothes pin The kids really like looking to trap a little animal puppet and bring it back to

our fluent speaker saying in Lingit which animal they trapped.

Other Cultural News:

Almost time to go and collect traditional medicine once again – Auntie Winnie helped us last year and showed us how to make her Lingit náagu (Lingit medicine). We were also able recorded her on video which is available on CTFN's common drive. Auntie Winnie says "spring time and fall time are the best time to collect traditional medicine" and you need to offer prayers when gathering the medicine and be sure you know how to pick medicine so it will continue to grow the following year. Auntie Winnie is always willing to help especially when passing on her knowledge of the language and traditional medicine – we all treasure our time with her and her amazing sense of humor making us laugh and have loads of fun with her everytime! Gunalchéech Auntie Winnie – Itusixan ch'a tleix!! (We always love you)

Tsu haa xánt gú x'wán (Do come see us again)

For more information please contact Cultural Projects & Language Coordinator
Deborah Baerg 821-2451 ext. 8207
deborah.baerg@ctfn.ca



**Haa Yátk'i Hídi
Daycare team and
their new Greenhouse!**

New Health & Wellness Director

by Myra Iles

Good day,
My name is Myra Iles, I am the Health & Wellness Director for C/TFN. - I have been in my position for 6 months and welcome the opportunity to introduce myself. I am a proud mother of three adult children and grandmother of 2, all of whom are Nacho Nyak Dun citizens. My parents are Annie & Alfred Tricker they came to Carmacks in 1958. My mom is Cree of the Littlechild family, my dad was Metis. My dad passed in September 2015. I miss him greatly.

I first studies as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Yukon College, I found the work rewarding however, I wanted to focus on Community

Development and First Nation Health so I returned to school and I attended University College of the Cariboo in Kamloops for 4 years to get my degree and my work since then has be aligned with my passion. I work every day to combine the values and virtues, my life experience and my knowledge to provide the C/TFN citizens, staff and agencies we work with solid support.

I am married to the love of my life Joe Iles. He is a surveyor/engineer. Joe works for the Federal Government and runs the office in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Thank you for allowing me to work with you and inviting me daily to your Traditional Territory.



New Communications Coordinator

by Daphne Pelletier Vernier



Bonjour! I am Daphne Pelletier Vernier, your new Communications Coordinator. I just finished a 13 weeks contract with C/TFN and started on April 27th a permanent full time position with the organization. I am really happy to be part of your Self-Government and embracing this great opportunity to serve the community with my knowledge and diverse expertise in Communications.

I own a Bachelor's degree in Social Communication. I am a snowboard instructor, I have a level I in Quantum Touch (Wholistic Healing) and I am a Board Member of the Arctic Institute for community-based research. In my past life, I was also a sushi chef, cook, wilderness guide, salesperson,

insurance broker, office coordinator, ski school coordinator, artist/carver/painter, I owned a landscaping company and was the President of the Yukon Wholistic Health Network. I also worked in Lake Louise, Japan, Cuba and France. My passions are photography, Arts, travelling and Nature! I practice yoga, and strongly believe in a healthy balance lifestyle.

I was born in Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs, a municipality in the regional county municipality of Les Pays-d'en-Haut in Quebec, Canada, located in the administrative region of Laurentides. The area is well known for its numerous lakes, ski industry and wilderness. Many people from the big city of Montreal visit the region during the week ends as a "get away" to relax and reconnect with nature. Sainte-Anne-des-lacs is an hour drive north of Montreal. The number one source of economy for the Laurentides is Tourism. Since about a 100 years now, it has been a lifetime struggle for the "Locals" to surrender their green space to visitors, and create many businesses to survive as a community.

My ancestors on my Mother's side (Pelletier) are from the region of Trois-Rivières & Victoriaville and my Grandfather was from the Algonquin / Abenakis people. They were farmers, owned a flower shop and also a fur shop well known for their beautiful hats! My

Grandmother was the first women to sit on the Chamber of Commerce in Montreal. My ancestors on my Father's side (Vernier) are from Dorval and they were all French people. They mostly worked building railroads/trains and worked in Communications (Morse code and Bell).

Both my parents worked for Air Canada and it gave me the opportunity to travel around the world starting at an early age. My first trip was to L.A. at the age of 4! It became a passion for me to meet the people of the land and discover their traditions and amazing cultures.

I consider myself emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually balanced. I commenced a spiritual journey about 3 years ago which led me to Peru to meet the Quechua people in the Sacred Valley of the Andes Mountains. I also spent time with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation people who welcomed me in their beautiful Territory and introduced me to sweat lodges and different traditions. I was honored to do a 3 days fast up Bennett Lake which literally changed my life for the better. On the third day of my fast, a hummingbird visited me and became my spiritual animal representing me perfectly: spreading Joy around and tasting the nectar of life at every given opportunity!

Gunalcheesh! Love, Light & Gratitude!

Fire Crew

by Wesley Barrett

The Carcross/Tagish First Nation Fire Crew are: Wayne Risby (Crew Leader), Greg Johnson (Crew Member) and Kevin Welin (Crew Member). The 2 Fire Crew Trainees are Cole Coward and Ronan Hopkins. Once the 2 Fire Crew Trainees are done with their training with Fire Management, they'll be working with the camp ground attendant in



both Carcross and Tagish Campgrounds, until there needed to fight forest fires. Please be advised that Fire season is upon us and you will require a burning permit from Yukon Government available on the following website:

www.community.gov.yk.ca/firemanagement/permits

2016 Chief Election!

by Georgina Leslie

An Election will be held for Chief Wednesday, May 25th 2016

VOTER LIST:

All persons 18 or older on May 25 and are citizens of CTFN are eligible to vote. The Draft Voters List is posted at the Administration Office, CYFN and posted on the web site. Please ensure your name is on the list and advise the Enrollment Officer at patricia.james@ctfn.ca or 867 821-4251, ext 8210 if you have changed your address.

CANDIDATES:

BARRETT, Wesley
WALLY, Eileen
CRESSWELL, Danny
CARVILL, Andy



CANDIDATE FORUMS:

April 27th in Carcross (Curling Club 6PM)
May 5th in Whitehorse (Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre/multipurpose room 6PM)

ELECTION CODE:

A copy of the Code is available on the web site or at the Administration Office.

OPTIONS TO VOTE:

There are up to five (5) options available for eligible voters to exercise their vote:

a) Mail-in voting

Is used for citizens on the Voters List who do not have access to voting stations. You will receive a ballot, along with instructions and

envelopes for returning your vote to the Chief Electoral Officer. Even though you have received this package, you may still vote in person if you are in either of: Carcross, Tagish or Whitehorse during Advance Poll or Regular voting or by contacting the Chief Electoral Officer for Early Voting. Mail-in ballot packages will automatically be mailed to all eligible voters living outside of Carcross, Tagish or Whitehorse as soon as nominations close and ballots are printed.

b) Early voting

Any eligible voter may vote by Early Voting by contacting the Chief Electoral Officer and setting up a time. Early Voting opens on April 25 and closes at 12:00 noon on May 22.

c) Mobile voting

Is designed for those who are housebound or institutionalized. Arrangements for Mobile Voting can be made by contacting the Chief Electoral Officer. Mobile Voting can take place as soon as Nominations close, and ballots have been printed, and closes May 22 at noon.

d) Advance voting

This in-person voting will be carried out in Carcross, Tagish and Whitehorse on May 16 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

e) Regular voting

May 25 has been set aside for Regular Voting, at the same three polls as Advance Voting, from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Chief Electoral Officer:

Georgina Leslie
Po Box 197 108 Elliott St, Whitehorse, YT,
Y1A 6C4
867 332-0426
CTFNelection@gmail.com



Upcoming Events Astrology for May

by Daphne Pelletier Vernier

May 2016

May is spring clean-up!

Contact TE crew for Yard clean-up & Leona Bryden for Homecare spring clean-up!

May 4: New TE crew starting (James Kawchuk, Vince James, Jennifer Atlin and Joyce Hall)

May 5: All Candidates Forum at KDCC

May 14 & 15: Drum Making workshop

May 13: KD Elders visiting Carcross for Balsam harvesting

May 14: Noon – Memorial at mile 18 for James Kawchuk Family

May 20: Opening of Parks Canada Facilities

May 25: 2016 Chief Election

May 26: Carcross/Tagish First Nation Graduation recognition dinner at the school

May 27: Yukon First Nation Graduation

Every Tuesday Morning: 10am Elders Breakfast at the Old daycare, Carcross

Every Wednesday: 7pm – AA Meetings, Old daycare in Carcross

Every Thursday: 6pm – Sewing classes Governance Boardroom

Every Saturday: 1pm – Men's Group, Old Daycare in Carcross

June 2016

June 1, 2 & 3: Emilie Tremblay Culture & Science Camp coming to stay at Skookies

June 4 & 5: Rattle Making Workshop
Contact Heritage, Lands & Natural Resources

June 8 to 11: Sealaska Heritage Celebration in Juneau

June 18 & 19: Drum Making Workshop
Contact Heritage, Lands & Natural Resources

June 13 to 24: C/TFN Audit

June 21: Summer Solstice Celebration
Aboriginal day (no Elders breakfast)

June 25: New Pioneer utility grant application will be available

by Jordan Atlin



Aries

The month ahead is an excellent one for getting your bearings, dear Aries. You are encouraged to slow down, work things out, draw on patience, and build and develop - and the sooner you accept this kind of pace, the better the rewards!



Taurus

This is a powerful month for you, dear Taurus. There is strong focus on your personality and your personal plans, and support for these is forthcoming. Granted, Mercury is retrograde in your sign and Mars is retrograde as well - the latter being a fairly infrequent occurrence that can slow things down. Navigating the waters can be a little tricky, but you have plenty of help from Jupiter, Pluto, Neptune, and Chiron. In fact, there are some rather magical influences with you in May, particularly in the first half of the month.



Gemini

There continues to be a strong focus on the past, healing, processing, and digesting this month, dear Gemini. There is very little pressure to venture out, although you're not one to keep still for too long. Planetary shifts this month turn your attention back to home and family. There can be renewed relationships, and projects around the home can resume, from the 9th forward. Motivation to make happy changes in your domestic life increases now and in the next several months.



Cancer

This is a strong month for your social life, dear Cancer, even if there are some complications to deal with. Relationships in general are in focus, and for the most part, people are helpful and supportive of you.



Leo

There is strong focus on your life direction, career, and/or reputation this month, dear Leo.

You could be mulling over some major decisions about where you're headed. There is at least one planet and often several bodies in your career sector in May.



Virgo

There can be a strong focus on learning, sharing ideas, publishing, and venturing out beyond your usual bounds in May, dear Virgo. While Mercury, your ruler, is retrograde until the 22nd, and Mars is as well (all month), you have many reasons to be hopeful and frequently enjoy moments when your spirits are lifted.



Libra

You continue to be drawn to your inner world this month, dear Libra, and to making inner changes that have strong impact on your life. You are tuned in to the deeper issues and looking beyond the surface of matters for answers. We are encouraged to slow down and possibly back up in some areas of life this month with Mars retrograde all month and Mercury until the 22nd. You may tune in to this pace faster than most with the help of the concentration of planetary energy in your succedent and cadent houses, as you're naturally inclined to adjust, build, and observe in May.



Scorpio

A major focus this month is your relationships, dear Scorpio, and it's an important one. Sorting out problems and enjoying special moments with people in your life are satisfying activities in their own right, but can affect many different life departments as well. Mercury is retrograde until the 22nd in your partnership sector, and Mars is retrograde all month, so there can be some complications and challenges to overcome, but overall, this is a strong time for exploring feelings and attitudes. The New Moon on the 6th tends to get the ball rolling, but most of the first half of May is strong for re-defining relationships and relationship needs.



Sagittarius

The month ahead is a strong one for making important adjustments, getting your daily routines and self-care problems into order, and doing editing or revision in your work, dear Sagittarius. You have plenty of support for these activities, thankfully. Attempting to push ahead new initiatives is not advised for now.



Capricorn

This is a strong month for exploring creative urges, dear Capricorn, and for sharing your affection, joy, and experiences with others. Reconnecting with old passions and hobbies can be in strong focus.



Aquarius

There is powerful focus on home, family, and personal matters this month, dear Aquarius. This is a time for rediscovering old projects, reorganizing the home, and dealing with past problems in new, empowering ways. This is about your own support system and the support you give to others. There can be vivid memories and important discoveries. You may be facing up to a neglected area of your life that now seems quite important to revisit - and you have much to gain in the process.



Pisces

There are wonderful aspects made from your communications sector to planets in your sign this month, dear Pisces. So, while a retrograde Mercury may lead to some misunderstandings, you're nevertheless expressing yourself with special flair. If you focus on slowing yourself down, this can be a very rewarding month. You may be turning to past projects and interests rather than embarking on all-new endeavors, but there is a lot of good energy with you for devotion and dedication. It's a great time for editing, revising, and reviving. You can have much success with designing, writing, and teaching as well.

C/TFN NEW LOGO

by Aaron Smarch

Thank you Aaron Smarch for this beautiful piece of Art! New letter heads will be distributed to all C/TFN Departments with the new logo!



Next Newsletter will be in July!

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter
Visit our Website www.ctfn.ca
Call C/TFN (867) 821-4251

