

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a



Kwanlin People of Whitehorse, How are you?



## Octopus Bags

Beading on octopus bags created by Shirley and Karen Bien. Gift presented to the Duchess and Duke of Cambridge in September 2016.

Full story on **PAGE 12**

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**Right:** Chief Doris Bill and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chief Kristina Kane at the January 2017 Yukon Forum with First Nation Chiefs, Yukon Premier and ministers.



## Message From Chief Doris Bill

*Congratulations to Ta'an Kwäch'än citizens on the 15th anniversary of the signing of their Final and Self-government agreements.*

Another year has come to a close and a new one begun. On behalf of Council, it has been our pleasure to serve you and guide the direction of your government throughout the past year.

The coming year will bring new challenges, and with the hard work of the Government of Kwanlin Dün staff and the dedicated direction of Council there will be many successes to come.

Our community is strong and resilient, and with the increasing health and well-being of our citizens, Kwanlin Dün First Nation is a growing force for good in our traditional territory. I'm very proud of the single, individual effort each citizen makes to build a better future for our next generations.

KDFN's Community Safety initiative is taking effect. The statistics from 2014 through to December 2016 show the number of occurrences of illegal and criminal activity is down by approximately 40%. There is more work to come as we continue to implement the Community Safety initiative. Mostly however, these promising results are because of each citizen's determination and effort to make our community a safe place to live, work and play. And we thank you.

In 2016, the leadership of our young people was impressive as they engaged many of us, and many groups in Whitehorse and Yukon, in dynamic workshops to talk about lateral violence and how to spread lateral kindness. Their direction and hard work

makes a difference and we are continuing this important work. Thank you to all citizens who joined the conversation at the January 21 community workshop on lateral violence; by sharing your knowledge and experience you are part of the solution.

In 2016, an important announcement was made on changes to the *Yukon Land Titles Act* to support KDFN's use of the Yukon land registry system while maintaining Aboriginal rights and title to settlement land. This is an important step because the Yukon system is one that has the confidence and trust of lenders. Once a KDFN land-leasing system is in place KDFN citizens who qualify will have more options for homeownership and home-improvement loans.

To every citizen who is working on their spiritual, mental and physical well-being, we wish you continued success. Your contribution is important to us and we thank the staff of the Jackson Lake Wellness Team for their never-wavering support. With our partners, the City of Whitehorse, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the Government of Yukon and many Non-governmental Organisations, we are continuing to work on our Vulnerable People at Risk initiative to ensure no one is left behind.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation is presently in a general election; to all citizens that choose to run, we applaud you. And to all citizens, we urge you to cast your ballot on March 15 for your next Council.



# Kwanlin Dün First Nation General Election Called

Kwanlin Dün First Nation citizens will be going to the polls to elect its next Council on Wednesday, March 15, 2017. Kwanlin Dün citizens will elect a Council that will include one (1) Chief and six (6) Councillors as specified in the Kwanlin Dün First Nation *Elections Act*. An Advance Poll will be held on Wednesday, March 1; both the Advance Poll and the Election Day Poll will be at Nàkwät'à Kù (Potlatch House) on McIntyre Drive.

Pursuant to section 10 of the *Elections Act*, an Election Committee has been appointed. The members of the Election Committee are Kevin MacGillivray (Chair), Edward Duru and Sharon Shorty. Pursuant to section 14 of the *Elections Act*, Norman Eady has been appointed as the Chief Returning Officer.

**February 1, 2017 is the deadline for citizens to submit their nomination pa-**

**pers to the Chief Returning Officer to be eligible to run in the March election.** Nomination forms are available at the Election Office and online.

The Election Office is located at 4 O'Brien Place in the McIntyre Subdivision.

Hours of Operation: Mondays 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm; Wednesdays 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm; Thursdays 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

The Election Office is responsible for the election process. Any questions on the election should be directed to the Elections Office or directly to the Chief Returning Officer.

For more information on the Election Process, to read the publication on running for Council – *So, you want to run for Council?* and to view the eligible voters visit the website [www.kdfnelection.com](http://www.kdfnelection.com)



# KDFN VOTES!

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## The Girl Behind the Camera

**... meet Aurora Hardy KDFN Communications Trainee**

Aurora Hardy, a citizen of Kwanlin Dün, joined the KDFN communications team in the fall of 2016 for a term-position to develop communications skills. Aurora is learning about producing many communication products like this newsletter, speeches and news releases.

"It brings me great pride to work for my own First Nation. It is uplifting to work towards something that I am passionate about," shared Aurora. "This is a tremen-

dous opportunity that will help me in my future studies and career."

Aurora is responsible for keeping KDFN's social media pages on Facebook and Twitter active and interesting. She is learning the challenges of strategic communication planning and working with the media. Aurora is also receiving formal communication training and is involved in inter-governmental communication activities and meetings.

Aurora will be with KDFN through to September when she will be returning to school to start her post-secondary education. Thank you Aurora for your hard work and willingness to learn. Thank you to the citizens of KDFN for welcoming Aurora to our many community events and meetings. Your government hopes to offer more intern/mentoring/apprenticeship-type programs like this in the future.

For more information contact communications at (867) 633-7800.



**Photo:** Aurora Hardy taking photos at the January 2017 Yukon Forum.

# Big year ahead for Chu Niikwan Development Corporation

For more information contact Chu Niikwan at [office@chuniikwan.ca](mailto:office@chuniikwan.ca) or (867) 393-2688

This year Chu Niikwan Development Corporation is ready to start fulfilling its vision: to grow the equity and resources of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation for the future benefit of all members. They've hired a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and office manager, established a Board of Directors, confirmed business partnerships, and formalized its group of companies.

"Our priority is to take small steps but the right steps and make decisions that will realize benefits long into the future," says CEO Chris Milner. "It's part of a long-term self-sufficiency plan."

Milner comes to Chu Niikwan with a Masters in Business Administration and senior roles held in Yukon Housing Corporation, Arctic Winter Games, the Vancouver Olympics, and the Canada Winter Games. "I have learned that the only way big projects work is to form partnerships," says Milner.



*Chris Milner,  
CEO of Chu Niikwan*

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There are many success stories in other First Nation Development Corporations and the future looks good for Chu Niikwan.

— Chris Milner

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Chu Niikwan already has a solid foundation of investments and partnerships with Northerm, Kilrich, Yukon Energy Corporation and Whitehorse's Lynn Building. The group of companies within Chu Niikwan includes Canyon City Construction, Kishwoot Enterprises, a gravel quarry and equipment leasing business, and River People, a land leasehold and property management company.

As KDFN is the single largest landowner in the Whitehorse area, part of the strategy is to develop land on parcels identified for both residential and commercial use. Projects are already on the go. A leasing



**CHU NIIKWAN**  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

process set up in collaboration with KDFN Lands and Resources Department allows settlement land to be leased through the corporation for revenue purposes. Market housing projects are moving ahead in Whistle Bend and with the construction of a four-plex for market rental.

These opportunities will help garner immediate cash flow, but the thrust of Chu Niikwan's work over the immediate years is to slowly build up a diverse portfolio that will generate wealth for KDFN in 10, 20 or more years. "It's about the long game," says Milner.

Many other Yukon First Nations set up their corporations over 10 years ago. Chu Niikwan is in a great position to learn from their successes, challenges and experience. "There are many success stories in other First Nation Development Corporations and the future looks good for Chu Niikwan," says Milner. "We recognize that there are also strong opportunities for investment in operating businesses locally and regionally."

Chu Niikwan is governed by a five-person Board of Directors held by prominent Yukon business professionals including at least two KDFN members. Together they've established a Strategic Plan, a Business Charter and Corporate Policies.

"We are excited to introduce our development corporation to the business community," says Rick O'Brien, Chair of the Board. "Kwanlin Dün will no longer be an observer; we are ready to go."

# Community Safety Initiative Having an Impact

Implementing Kwanlin Dün's Community Safety initiative is improving the safety of our community. Since 2014 through to December 2016 the number occurrences (calls to police) of illegal or criminal activity in the community has decreased by approximately 40%. In 2014 there were 1,097 occurrences, in 2015 there were 826 and in 2016 there were 668.

These are very promising statistics.

How are we doing this? By taking action on many fronts. Implementing the Community Safety initiative included the major 2015 community clean-up that removed tons of derelict material from the area; clearing brush along the trails to improve sight lines; removing bush-party sites; improving lighting on the streets and, with our partners, reducing the speed limit in the McIntyre subdivision and initiating road-side vehicle stop checks.

It includes working hard to improve our relationship with justice professionals such as the RCMP, City of Whitehorse By-Law Office and the Government of Yukon Justice Department. It also includes increasing security as needed in the community.

The Government of Kwanlin Dün in partnership with Northwestel also established a TIPS Line (867-456-TIPS (8477)) in 2016 for citizens to anonymously leave information on known and potential criminal activity. Recently, Crime Stoppers has been relaunched in Yukon which provides citizens a second number to leave anonymous information about crime. Crime Stoppers offers a cash award of up to \$2,000 for information that



*Since 2014 through to December 2016 the number occurrences (calls to police) of illegal or criminal activity in the community has decreased by approximately 40%.*

leads to an arrest. The Crime Stoppers number is 1-800-222-8477.

Citizens are encouraged to use TIPS or Crime Stoppers to provide information on potential security & safety concerns and information on criminal activity. The information gathered will be forwarded to the appropriate agency to follow up.

This month, the government began recruiting for Community Safety Officers. When these officers are in place, fully trained and operational they will act as community specialists, and they will be the first point of contact for citizens in need of assistance (e.g. with bylaws), in conflict with the law, or concerned for their safety.

Most importantly, with our partners, we are building the trust of Kwanlin Dün citizens. At KDFN's regular *Let's Keep Talking* meetings citizens tell us how we are doing and give us ideas and suggestions on how to improve community safety. The success of the KDFN Community Safety initiative is based on citizens' trust and the determined will and effort of each citizen to make our community a safe place for everyone to live, work and play.

## Deduction Error - National Child Benefit Supplement

Social Assistance Clients, we thank you for your patience with KDFN staff - we are still waiting too. Recently, the Yukon government informed all First Nations, including Kwanlin Dün, that it is still working on gathering information on the National Child Benefit Supplement

(NCBS) deduction error. The Government of Yukon has asked again that First Nations "temporarily pause" their work underway on the re-calculations. An update will be provided as soon as the Government of Yukon informs us of its progress.



# Good Things Happening at Jackson Lake Wellness Program

The Jackson Lake Wellness Centre offers a land-based program that brings together both First Nation cultural and mainstream clinical approaches to healing. It helps people from all backgrounds begin to heal from issues like addictions, trauma and abuse. The programs are popular — there is always a wait-list for participants for the four-week land-based Women's Program and Men's Program. Once the program is complete, participants have access to aftercare and support from outreach workers — a key to the program's success.

There were many new developments over 2016 to the Jackson Lake Wellness Program with a new Youth Program and new equine therapy. Stories abound of how this effective program changes people's lives — we share one family's story with you below.

## NEW YOUTH PROGRAM

In 2016 the Jackson Lake Wellness Program launched a new Youth Program. It's offered

four times a year — a week-long session for each season of the year. Youth ages 12 to 18 can participate and anyone can join, but the focus is on young people living in Whitehorse. "The idea is to help youth who are on the cusp of becoming high-risk," said Colleen Geddes, Coordinator of the Jackson Lake Wellness Team.

Funding is through Justice Canada and the program partners with Yukon Government's Alcohol and Drug Services. One of their Youth Workers works with the program. The program provides a positive place for youth to connect with themselves, the land and First Nation culture. A focus is to integrate healthy habits into their young lives and thereby reduce potential criminal behaviour and addiction. "It offers a lot of cultural and spiritual activities," says Geddes. This summer's session saw the group attend the Moosehide and Our Voices gatherings. The January 2017 session offered tool-making, setting fish nets, talking circles and a sweat ceremony. "Facilitators talked about youth wellness, addictions counselling, traditional teaching and what supports are available in the community," said Geddes.

All programs last a week. "A week for youth is perfect," says Geddes. "It's difficult to get them away from their other activities."

## HORSES HELP HEAL

Don't be surprised if you see two big beautiful horses up at the Jackson Lake Camp this summer. Equine Therapy — using horses to heal from emotional trauma — was added in last summer's Women's Program. Colleen Geddes, Coordinator at Jackson Lake Wellness Program, has long been a "horse person." She and fellow Jackson Lake counsellor Marian Bos both own horses and have taken equine therapy training and are offering it in the program.

"Horses are very, very healing," said Geddes. "Just having the horses there was helpful for the women. Comforting."

**Below:** Youth making scrapers out of moose leg bones



Geddes explained that horses are extremely aware of our emotions. They sense how we feel and they will mirror it. “If we are angry, they feel that energy and often will move away from you to feel safe” she says. “It gives the participant a chance to see how their feelings have an impact outside of themselves. It can be more helpful to see this impact than to talk about it for some. People who have a hard time communicating their feelings to others may feel instantly understood by a horse and then more able to open up.”

Geddes' horse is called Quinn and he's really big – over 16 hands, but a gentle giant. “He came from an abusive relationship himself,” said Geddes. “People can relate. This work is all about dealing with the trauma and other issues underneath the addictions.”

Through the course of the four weeks, participants gradually build trust and confidence in their relationship with the horses. By the end of the program, the women are able to lead one of the strong animals through an obstacle course by a little string. “There's a lot of power in being able to do that,” said Geddes. “You learn that you have the strength to overcome obstacles in your life.”

### FAMILY ON THE HEALING PATH

There are many success stories that come out of Jackson Lake Wellness Centre — everyone that participates is somewhere on the healing journey. One couple agreed to share their story, although they remain anonymous.

This last year, a couple signed up for both the Men's and Women's program. They had both been through a difficult couple of years. They were both involved with the courts and their kids had been taken away from them and put in foster care. They were also court-ordered to not see each other.

Now they are living together and have their kids back. The couple are both working good part-time jobs. Their young boy is getting straight-A's in school. They are acting as role models to other people in the program.

“This to me is what I see as success,” said Geddes. “They are doing it in such a healthy and positive way. They are not running ... running to the bottle and old learned behaviours. They stay engaged with the Jackson Lake team and participate in aftercare activities. They connect.”

Connection is the key. “Throughout North America there are healing programs and treatment programs. What is seriously problematic is that there is no support when they get home. Nobody to connect to and talk to or understand,” says Geddes. Staying connected with the Jackson Lake Team for aftercare is essential. The team offers regular events and cultural activities for former participants and someone is always available when issues arise. Geddes quotes therapist Bill Stuart who said, “Treatment is about discovery and aftercare is about recovery.”



**Above:** Youth netting fish at Youth Camp

*Contact: Colleen Geddes and Les Walker (Youth Program Coordinator) with the Jackson Lake Wellness Centre at (867) 633-2629 or (867) 334-1365; colleen.geddes@kdfn.net or les.walker@kdfn.net*



## Rachel Dawson - Female Athlete of the Year!

CONGRATULATIONS to Rachel Dawson and Owen Munroe, 2016 Athletes of the Year – Special Olympics. Rachel is a KDFN citizen. She is an accomplished bowler, soccer player and curler. Rachel loves to keep busy, says her mother Mary Dawson - she also works at Superstore.

Owen is a Kaska citizen from Ross River who now lives in Whitehorse. You make us very proud; thank you for your positive spirit and your dedication.





## Waterfront Heritage Project...Where We Are At

**Above:** Community meeting to meet the book authors and hear ideas about the future book.

**Contact:** Rae Mombourquette, Community Liaison and Production Coordinator, KDFN Waterfront Heritage Project, (867) 633-7800 or rae.mombourquette@kdfn.net

The fall was a very busy time for the Kwanlin Dün Waterfront Heritage Project with Phase three underway to produce a book in the spring of 2018. Gordon Loverin was hired to film more videos with our people, focusing on KDFN youth along the Yukon River at Miles Canyon, Croucher Creek and Lake Laberge. We also received more than 60 offers of family photo collections for copying of images for the KDFN Photo Archives.

Four authors began work on research and writing - Jason Charlie, Ukjese van Kampen, Gordon Loverin, and Gillian McKee. The Project Coordinators worked with the Technical Review Team members to develop an outline of chapters for the book based on traditional seasonal

activities from early times to the present.

KDFN staff members Rae Mombourquette and Richard Vladers designed the 2017 Cache Your Story Calendar to showcase some of the images and stories gathered to date for the book. The calendar was presented to Elders and participants as a thank you for all their assistance. Copies were also given out at various community gatherings and from the main reception desk.

Be sure to watch for further updates via the KDFN web site, the Kwanlin Dün Waterfront Heritage Facebook page and planned community meetings on May 25, 2017 and November 23, 2017 at the Nákwät'á Kų Potlatch House 5-7 pm. Happy New Year to all!



## A Woman Who Cares

Elder Judith Kuster gave a presentation at the recent fundraising event – 100 Women Who Care. She raised \$2,245 for the KDFN Elders Emergency Fund. Way to go Judith!

This unique fundraising event brings contributors together with charities/societies seeking donations.

Judith made a presentation on the Elders Emergency Fund and the generous donors at the event responded with their donations.

Thank you Judith and donors.



# Are you getting all the benefits you are entitled to?

In November 2016, Revenue Canada sent certain citizens a letter explaining that you may be eligible for benefits but are not receiving them because you have not filed your income tax return.

Many benefits in Canada and Yukon are income-based, which means you are entitled to these benefits if your income is low. Your eligibility is based on the income reported when you file your annual income taxes.

These benefits include:

- Canada Child Benefit
- Goods and Services Tax (GST) Rebate
- Territorial benefits and credits
- Guaranteed Income Supplement for Seniors (65 and over)

But you must file your taxes! It is easier than you think ...

- Vouchers will be available in mid-February through the Yukon

Council on Aging (YCOA) for Elders (and anyone over 60). The number of vouchers is limited and are provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Income tax clinics will also be held. The YCOA is looking for volunteers to assist with clinics for Elders. Training will be provided.
- Free software is available to complete your taxes on-line.

*To find out more about the vouchers or the tax clinics, please contact the YCOA on Fourth Avenue in Whitehorse at (867) 668-3383 or email: [ycoa@yknet.ca](mailto:ycoa@yknet.ca)*



## Come Join the Fun at the 2017 NAIG in Toronto!

The 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) will be in Toronto this July. Kwanlin Dün citizen Karee Vallevand (**left**), Assistant Chef de Mission, and Tara Wardle (**right**), Chef de Mission, are overseeing all aspects of Team Yukon's preparation to ensure a successful games.

ID Camps will be held to determine interest and set up practices for archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, lacrosse, canoe/kayak, golf, rifle shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball and wrestling.

“Don’t be shy, and checkout the ID Camps,” says Karee Vallevand. “We’d like to see as many of our indigenous youth participate in the Games as possible.” For more information call the Chef de Mission at (867) 667-3778, check out the Team Yukon Facebook page @YukonNAIG2017 or visit [www.naig2017.to](http://www.naig2017.to)





## Elders Day Program

**Above:** *Elijah Smith Elementary Grade 7 Leadership class stacked wood and shovelled walkways for Elders*

Launched in February 2015, KDFN Elders Day Program aims to reduce isolation and improve the health and well-being of Elders in the community. Expectations have been exceeded as staff and Elders have been very busy with their regular and special activities. The program is open to any Elder in the community and runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Program Coordinator, Linda Huebschwerlen, and Program Assistant, Millie Gage, have worked tirelessly to organize a variety of activities for the Elders. “I try to incorporate cultural tradition into every aspect of the program,” says Huebschwerlen. “Our Elders thrive when involved in traditional cultural ac-

tivities such as berry and medicine picking, setting rabbit and gopher snares, language lessons, singing and drumming, and telling stories.” And they are crucial to sharing their skills with the community.

The program organizers help the Elders with whatever they need. At the end of the month, they take Elders to the bank and to pay their bills. They accompany the Elders to their appointments and for their grocery shopping.

The Elders involved in the program decide what they want to do and the organizers do their best to make sure everyone’s needs are satisfied. Recently, the Elders mentioned that they hadn’t had rabbit



**Right:** *Rosie Smith in front of the new Elders van.*





in a long time. So, the group made and set some snares, and caught six rabbits. "There was dead silence when we ate the rabbits because the Elders were enjoying them so much," says Huebschwerlen. "All you could hear was shhhht as the meat came off the bones."

In December, the Elders went on a Christmas lights tour. "This was a popular activity that they all wanted to do," says Huebschwerlen. Remembering the December calendar, she laughed saying it was "Shopping, shopping, bingo, shopping, Christmas party, shopping, shopping!"

Elders in the program took part in teaching and sewing at the weekly sewing circle from October to November, 2016 at Kenädän Ku - House of Learning.

The Elders are also involved in most community events. They are supported to attend community dinners, family luncheons at Dusk'a, Elders exchanges with other communities, culture camps and other events at Jackson Lake.

The program is dependent on funding, and through its proven success we hope it will continue to serve Elders for their well-being and for the well-being of the community.

**Top-left:** Dusk'a students dancing for the Elders

**Top-right:** Linda Huebschwerlen with Elder Violet George at an Elders luncheon

*Elders interested in getting involved with the program do not need to be KDFN citizens and can contact the Health Centre at (867) 668-7289 for more information.*

## Fentanyl: it's in the Yukon and it's dangerous

Fentanyl is a very potent synthetic opioid. It is 100 times more potent than morphine and 40 times more potent than heroin. You may also know it as fake oxy, greenies, green beans, green apples, apples, eighties or shady eighties.

Fentanyl has been found in many types of street drugs. Some people choose to use Fentanyl, however many people do not. We know that Fentanyl is often added to street drugs without people knowing. You can't see it, smell it or taste it. Because Fentanyl is now found in many street drugs, if you are an occasional or a regular drug-user, to **REDUCE YOUR RISK** you should:

1. Never use street drugs alone. If possible, use at different times so you can watch over each other.
2. Have access to a phone to call 9-1-1 if

needed.

3. Use somewhere close to medical help; in other words do not take drugs out in the bush or alone in your car.
4. Have access to a naloxone (narcan) home kit. Naloxone is an antidote for an opioid overdose. Take-home Kits are available through the KDFN Health Centre. A nurse will show you how to use the kit.
5. Know CPR – cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Kwanlin Dün's goal is to provide you with information and assistance to keep you safe and alive. A message from the Chief is posted on KDFN's website and Facebook page on reducing the risk to street-drug users. The Health Centre also has confidential counsellors and programs for anyone ready to heal from any type of addiction.



**REMEMBER  
ALWAYS CALL  
9-1-1**

if you suspect an overdose. You lose precious seconds if you call somewhere else first!



## Dusk'a Headstart Language Program Gets a Big Boost from Royal Visit

**Above:** Royals at MacBride Museum with students & staff from Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre, Chief Bill and translator Lorraine Allen

Staff and volunteers at Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre work hard to bring Southern Tutchone language instruction to their preschool-aged students. But it feels like there's always more work to be done.

When the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Kate, visited the Yukon in September, they spent an afternoon with Dusk'a staff and students to unveil the project they helped fund. Thanks to the Prince's Charity and the One Laptop Per Child charity, Dusk'a kids now have a fantastic new Southern Tutchone storybook to read and 30 young children were given special laptops to help learn native languages at home.

"It was really exciting," said Erin Pauls, Manager of Dusk'a. "It was really forward thinking of the Royals to have taken that strong a stance on language revitalization."

The book is called "Nán'j Yè Uka Nànnta" or in English, "Hide and Peek" and is about wild animals of Canada. It was translated into Southern Tutchone by language instructor Lorraine Allen. The project was

funded by the Prince's trust, the charitable organization of Prince of Wales and delivered by Say It First, an organization that works to revitalize native languages across Canada through the creation of kids' books.

One Laptop Per Child joined in the generous efforts by providing each child with a special laptop loaded with language-learning games and tools. A digital version of the new story can be found on each laptop along with a video of Lorraine Allen herself reading the story out loud.

At an event at the MacBride Museum, Lorraine Allen read the book out loud to both the Royals and a throng of happy Dusk'a students. Then they all sang a Southern Tutchone song together.

"They were really down to earth," said Pauls of the Royal couple. "They sat on bison rugs and logs. The kids were really well-behaved and liked them. The prince even made the kids laugh."

Pauls says that the Duke asked

For more information contact the Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre at (867) 393-3775





**Left:** One Laptop per Child event at Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre

questions that seemed that they were really invested in people's wellbeing. She says they inquired into whether KDFN has the resources to best serve the children and provide adequate language programming. "This is a chance to make

new relationships," said Pauls. "We've been working really hard at a grassroots level and it gave us a boost of excitement — that people from abroad are recognizing our hard work but also our resiliency and struggle."

## Bien Octopus Bags and Vests

On behalf of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Shirley and Karen Bien made traditional vests for the Duke of Cambridge and Prince George, and Octopus bags for the Duchess of Cambridge and Princess Charlotte. The gifts were given to the Duke and Duchess during the Royal Visit to the Yukon in late September.

flowers were sewn from the old way to the nowadays way. The colour of the beads represent old colours used long ago and new colours of today. The artists chose royal blue to represent the Royal couple.

**Below:** Shirley (left) and Karen Bien with the octopus bags and vests

The four pieces took more than 100 hours to complete.

The artwork displayed on the octopus bags and vests represent "the old and the new way combined to make one," explained Shirley and Karen.

Shirley and Karen explained that octopus bags date back to the early 1700s and are traditionally worn at potlaches to complete an outfit. They are also used to collect money or gifts that are to be placed in the main collection bowl at the event. "The more decorated and fancy the bags, the more the skills of the sewer were praised," said Shirley. The Tlingit people of today continue to wear these bags as part of their regalia.

The old seaweed pattern on the outside border of the vests represent the coastal Tlingit people. The flowers shown in the middle represent the inland Tlingit (Tagish Kwan). Karen and Shirley explained that the



# Gúyàt nàáts'edlū - Sewing with Beads

**Below:** Darlene Scurvey with Elder Alice Skookum from Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

A weekly sewing circle was held last fall at Kenädän Ku (House of Learning). Six Elders and eight participants came together to develop skills in sewing, beading and language, and to create traditional potlach

vests. The program was a partnership between Kwanlin Dün Education and Health departments (Elders Day Program).

Darlene Scurvey instructed the sewing and beading skills. Other cultural activities were encouraged such as singing and drumming and the use of Southern Tutchone translations of sewing supplies.

Traditional healthy lunches of moose, trout and balsam root were prepared and served.

Participants commented that they enjoyed the inter-generational “togetherness” felt in the group, and that the time with Elders, listening to their stories and practicing the language was a valuable part of the experience. KDFN will run another sewing circle in February with a small-business development focus.



# Renovations, Retrofits, and a New Duplex

**Top left:** Patrick from Canyon City Construction working on New Duplex

**Top right:** Ray Webb General Building Co. working on energy retrofits

The department of Community Services is very busy improving, renovating and building new infrastructure. Through financial assistance from Canada (CanNor) and Yukon (Community Development Fund) major renovations are taking place at Nàkwät'à Kù. Canyon City is working on an extension, renovations to the kitchen, improved upstairs space, better outside lighting and a covered fire pit area. The potlach house will

also receive additional cultural representation.

Energy retrofits are underway on houses on McCrimmon Crescent through a contract with Ray Webb General Building Co.

Canyon City is also building a duplex on McCrimmon Crescent that will add two 2-bedroom units to KDFN's housing stock. The new homes will be allocated following KDFN's Housing Rental policy.



# Community Christmas Party

Thank you to the Natsékhi Kù (Health Centre) staff for bringing so much joy over the holidays to our community. The community Christmas party was a wonderful success, as was the Elders'

Lunch, the Health Babies, Healthy Generations lunch and the Outreach Clients breakfast. Your energy and organisational skills are impressive and appreciated.



# Education Survey Results

**Your comments will mean better service**  
– thank you for your time and interest.

Over the summer and early fall the education staff at Kenädän Ku (House of Learning) conducted a survey of citizens at a community meeting and through a direct survey with citizens on what they want and need from the Education department.

The results have been compiled and are informative.

At the community meeting citizens were asked about their vision – a wish list, for the department responsible for employment-readiness training and education. Some of the things that were top of mind for citizens were increased apprenticeship opportunities within the KDFN government and beyond, and enhanced language and cultural-training programming.

Through a direct survey of approximately 50 citizens, the department got a sense of how much citizens know about the department, how they use its services and how the department could improve. The majority of citizens surveyed were familiar with what was offered at Kenädän Ku, use the services and thought the department was doing a good job. (Citizens are reminded that social assistance is now part of the Department of Health

but that the House of Learning supports social assistance clients with training and employment success.)

More than half of the citizens surveyed identified that they had concrete employment/educational goals that ranged from upgrading, to completing a bachelor or master's program, to studying carpentry, mechanics or esthetics, to learning more about their culture, to giving back to their community. When asked specifically about a possible future cultural educator position at Kenädän Ku, more than half of the citizens surveyed said they would use their services if such a position was created. Citizens thought a cultural educator could provide language training, traditional First Nation teachings – such as smudging, sweats, medicines and circles and teach skills to help citizens live off the land.

Citizens said basic life skills, upgrading and employment preparation should continue to be the priorities of the department and that respect for individuals from all walks of life should be central at Kenädän Ku.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. Your comments will be used in planning for success at Kenädän Ku.

## Congratulations Graduates!

**Photo:** *Digital Skills for the Workplace course graduates*



Recent graduates of the *Digital Skills for the Work World* (DSWW) Course at the House of Learning: Joey Allison (front), L-R – Anthony Guy, Hilda Dawson, Stacity Bailie, Nadine MacIntosh, Rachel Sutherland, Santana Taylor, Don Inverarity (Instructor).



# Lots of Training Going On

Along with the regular training available from the House of Learning, a special course was offered on the operation of the new loader recently purchased by Kwanlin Dün.

Twenty-five citizens were also trained on the handling of asbestos through QM Environmental at the House of Learning. Many of the successful graduates were then offered work on the FH Collins Demolition project.

## Honouring Yourself

Now is the time to think about your personal *Timeline for Success*; a path toward rewarding employment and/ or training for yourself.

Kenädän Ku (House of Learning) has an Employment Support Facilitator on staff to assist you on your path to employment. There is also a job board with current employment prospects, and also consider upcoming opportunities such as the prospects at the new Whistle Bend Continuing Care Facility. A public computer is also available for job searches on the web. There are many opportunities available that await only your ambition to obtain self-sustaining work.

Kenädän Ku also has many courses offered this winter. There are culture-based courses such as a Yukon First Nation History course and the Yukon Archives Heritage Project, and employment readiness courses such as the Yukon Women in Trades and Technology course, Tutorials for Class 7 Driver's Licensing and the popular Employment Readiness Boot Camp.

For more information on training and employment opportunities contact the team at Kenädän Ku or visit [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com) and remember to keep an open mind and an open heart when honouring yourself.



**Photos, top to bottom: (1) Loader Training course participants: Blade Joe, Allen Taylor, Finning Trainers, and Charles Chief. (2) Citizens at the Asbestos Training course at the House of Learning. (3) Allen Taylor at the Loader Training course. (4) Willie Smith at the Loader Training course.**

For more information call Kenädän Ku at (867) 633-8422, email [education.reception@kdfn.net](mailto:education.reception@kdfn.net) or visit #5 O'Brien Place.

# Safe at Home: a Community-Based Action Plan to End Homelessness

The comprehensive action plan to end homelessness titled: “Safe at Home: A Community-Based Action Plan to End Homelessness” is in its final stages.

The Vulnerable People at Risk Working Group is tasked with creating the plan. The group has begun presenting the draft plan to its government partners. The government partners include Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta’an Kwäch’än Council, City of Whitehorse and the Government of Yukon.

The plan is also being shared with other public groups including the local business community and faith groups so they have an opportunity to provide comments prior to the final document being released to the larger Whitehorse community in March.

Through the support of the Yukon government department of Health and Social Services, an additional emergency shelter is being provided this winter; its

doors are expected to open in February. The shelter is located at the old St. Elias Group Home on Fifth Avenue in Whitehorse. The Kwanlin Dün Health Department is overseeing this initiative.

“On behalf of Council, I wish to thank the Working Group for all their hard work and their recent presentation of the plan to a joint meeting of the Ta’an Kwäch’än and Kwanlin Dün Councils,” said Chief Doris Bill. “This plan is about more than ending and preventing homelessness in Whitehorse; it recognizes root causes that may lead a person to be in a vulnerable position. It is also about streamlining services to better serve an individual’s needs.”

Chief Bill stressed that this is not about a hand-out but very much about a hand-up. “This is about being a caring and compassionate community that very much wants to make a difference,” added Chief Bill.

**Below:** joint meeting with Ta’an Kwäch’än and KDFN Councils







*Photo: Five trustees:  
L-R Darlene Smith,  
Kynan McIntyre, Helen  
Holway, Michael  
Stanley and Maxine  
Lindsay*

## Your Trust is Growing...KDFN Trust for Beneficiaries Established

The Kwanlin Dün First Nation Final Agreement includes a provision for a trust for beneficiaries. The trust has been created after several years of consultation with beneficiaries through community meetings, surveys and education. The trust holds the funds that will be built up through sound investments for the future benefit of Kwanlin Dün beneficiaries. All disbursements from the trust, including to beneficiaries, must follow the trust deed. The deed is the foundation of the trust and was recently approved by Council.

The trust is managed independently from Council – Council has no control over the trust. The trust funds are now in the trust's bank account, with the financial institution HSBC. The trustees will be hiring an investment manager to manage the growth of the fund. The investment manager will report back to the trustees who ensure investments are consistent with the deed, the policies and rules of the trust. Important in the first few years is that the investments made build the fund's wealth so that future disbursements do not touch the fund's principal amount.

Five KDFN beneficiaries have been appointed as trustees - they are: Helen Holway, Darlene Smith, Maxine Lindsay, Michael Stanley and Kynan McIntyre. Some of the roles and responsibilities of the trustees will include involvement in the hiring of the investment manager, providing direction and overseeing the growth of the trust.

"After running my own businesses and

working for Kwanlin Dün for many years, I look forward to being a trustee," said Helen Holway. "This is a great opportunity to work on investing and building the trust for our future generations."

The trustees will also be involved in developing policies and rules for the trust that will guide the fund's investments and disbursements. An administrative trustee has also been hired - Melinda McKie from Deloitte Wealth Management Services LLP, who specialises in administering trusts. The board of trustees will oversee the growth of the trust with expert administrative and investment advice.

"As a trustee, I envision the wealth of the trust growing through smart investing," said Maxine Lindsay. "It is important that we build our beneficiaries' trust to help carry our First Nation to a prosperous future."

The trustees are receiving training on their roles, responsibilities and on the way trusts operate.

"I'm very eager and ready to work with the new trustees and I'm looking forward to the learning and training opportunity this presents," said Darlene Smith. "I am dedicated to do what's best for all beneficiaries and future generations."

Kwanlin Dün Council thanks the beneficiary trustees for taking on this important role. Trustees have been appointed for five and seven-year terms and the trust will continue in perpetuity. If you are interested the training provided or in future participation as a trustee, please contact the KDFN Department of Finance.

*For more info,  
contact: Gordon  
Campbell, Director of  
Finance, KDFN, (867)  
633-7800 or Gordon.  
campbell@kdnfn.net*




**Photo:** Elders, First Nation Chiefs, Yukon Premier, Government of Yukon Ministers, Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations and youth at the January 13th Yukon Forum

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