

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

"Kwanlin people of Whitehorse, how are you?"



Premier Darrell Pasloski and Commissioner Doug Phillips present a Yukon gift to His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex in Vancouver.

BELOW: Nathan Dawson



## RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council is establishing a recreation committee. The committee will be chaired by Councillor Alicia Vance and Co-chaired by Councillor Dennis Calbery.

"Recreation covers many things. It could include traditional aboriginal recreation and sport activities such as hockey or baseball. It could be marathon training or as simple as a leisurely walk or berry picking," said Councillor Vance.

"Recreation is vital for our community. Without the community's input or involvement it will not be successful. This is just another step forward to unify our community and bring us together."

"It also could be a forum to learn skills such as discipline, confidence and leadership," Councillor Vance added. "All we need is ideas, funding and manpower to get it done."

If you are interested in putting your name forward for the Recreation Committee or want to give input, please contact Councillor Vance or Councillor Calbery at 633-7800.

## "Unity" Carving by Nathan Dawson Presented to Prince Edward

Yukon Commissioner Doug Phillips, Premier Darrell Pasloski and other Yukoners met with His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex (Prince Edward) in Vancouver in September to discuss ways to raise the awareness level and profile of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in Yukon.

At the meeting, the Yukon dignitaries presented the Earl with a carving – entitled "Unity" – by Nathan Dawson, a young Kwanlin Dün artist.

The piece itself is entitled "Unity" and is carved in basswood. The piece was inspired by the need for opposing elements to be unified in order for us all to move forward - both individually and as communities.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a non-competitive program for youth in which participants set and achieve personal goals for community service, skills, fitness, and adventure. More

information can be found at [www.dukeofed.org](http://www.dukeofed.org).

A Citizen of Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Nathan Dawson was born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon.

It was a bowl-making workshop that triggered Nathan's interest in carving and led him to join the Northern Cultural Expressions Society's "Beginners Carving Program". Participating in the carving program allows Nathan to further his skillset through various workshops in silk screening, soapberry spoon carving and knife making.

In hopes of becoming an accomplished artist, Nathan wants to promote traditional stories to the world, expressing them through his carvings.

Contact Nathan Dawson via Colin Teramura, Education Coordinator: [education@northernculture.org](mailto:education@northernculture.org)

# Citizenship Committee Update

On May 13, 2013 Chief and Council passed a resolution to adopt the Citizenship Committee's terms of reference and confirm the Citizenship Committee's mandate to develop a Citizenship Code. This responsibility included the development of policy, applications and the process by which to address the approval of both beneficiary and citizenship applications. A considerable amount of work has been done to achieve these goals and in the near future the Committee will be in the position to accept and review citizenship and beneficiary applications.

To support the Citizenship Committee with these efforts a new Citizenship Registrar, Kim Solonick, has been appointed by Chief and Council. Kim is responsible for managing the Office of the Registrar and for providing administrative and technical support to the committee to ensure that the KDFN's registry related programs and services are properly and effectively delivered.

The Citizenship Registrar is responsible for maintaining the Aboriginal Information Systems data base which is the reference for

information mailing lists, voting lists and the various eligibility lists for programs and services delivered by KDFN.

*Please contact Kim to confirm that your information is current and complete. She can be reached by email at [kim.solonick@kdfn.net](mailto:kim.solonick@kdfn.net) or 633-7884. Her office is located in the Executive Council Office located directly behind the mail administration building.*

## KDFN Hosts City officials for Intergovernmental Forum

An Intergovernmental Forum was held with the City of Whitehorse, on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The forum brought Whitehorse City Council and senior officials to the KDFN community to meet with KDFN's Chief and Council and Directors. Discussions surrounded updating service agreements, Bylaw enforcement and strategic planning.

In the past First Nations and local municipalities had little or no contact except for sharing services," said Chief Doris Bill. "Progress toward strengthening relations between the two governments have been made over time. Nonetheless, as a Self-Governing First Nation moving forward, and even if we would like to, we cannot always do things alone. If these services already exist, and it would be in the best interest of the First Nation, why reinvent the wheel?"



LEFT: Chief Bill and Mayor Curtis  
TOP: City of Whitehorse Mayor and Council and KDFN Chief and Council, Fall 2014.

"There is a need and expressed desire by both governments to develop better relationships and work together more closely on improved services for the community and in dealing with issues of mutual interest," Chief Bill added.

Preliminary talks and planning is underway to host a similar meeting with Yukon Government in the coming months.



## KWANLIN DÜN LAND VISION PROJECT

Kwanlin Dün First Nation owns a diverse set of Settlement Land parcels. Some land parcels were selected during land claim negotiations because a KDFN family had used a particular site for generations. Other parcels were chosen to enable KDFN to make money through business development and land leasing. A number of large land parcels were chosen because they are important hunting areas.

KDFN is initiating a high-level planning exercise for Settlement Land. The goal of this exercise will be to develop a community consensus around an overall vision for the use of settlement land. The land vision is intended to provide direction to the planning and management of Kwanlin Dün Settlement Land for years to come.

Kwanlin Dün Council, supported by the Lands and Resources department, will be initiating a community discussion on this Settlement Land vision, beginning with a community meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. In January and February there will be a series of workshops that will identify areas of settlement land suited to particular goals, after which results will be presented to the community for review. A final vision and high level plan will be given to Chief and Council for review, revision and approval in March.



If you wish to participate in this process, please contact the land planners in the Lands and Resources Department. Tammy Joe (633-7866), John Meikle (633-7859) or Geoff Cowie (633-7802).

### **Community meeting: project introduction**

December 8 | 5:30pm-8:30pm

Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

### **Workshop #1**

January 24 | 10am - 4pm

Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

### **Workshop #2**

February 7 | 10am - 4pm

Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

### **Community meeting: review draft vision**

March 10 | 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House

*Meals will be served at each meeting and rides are available, call Tammy Joe for more information at 633-7866.*

## **Oil and Gas Industry Information Session for Citizens**

On September 22, the Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing Steering Committee provided an Oil and Gas Information Session for Kwanlin Dün Citizens at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

The information session was intended to provide Citizens with a better understanding of the Oil and Gas industry and its potential impacts. Given all the meetings being organized by the Risk of Hydraulic Fracturing Steering Committee and other groups, KDFN did not want to influence Citizens one way or another but wanted to ensure the information was available to so that they can make their own informed decisions.

The information obtained at this meeting will be delivered to Council for guidance and consideration.

*If you were unable to attend and you would like the information presented, please contact Eileen Duchesne at 633-7826.*



## “Learning Together” Preschool Program now Offered at Dusk’a



The Learning Together program is an early learning initiative by Yukon Education. It provides school-based early learning experiences for families and caregivers and their pre-school aged children, at no cost to families. The program is intended to fill a niche for young children who are not attending childcare and are in the home with their parent(s) or caregiver (such as grandparents or nannies). Children and adults benefit from the Learning Together program- children have access to high-quality learning environments and benefit from social interactions while the adults who accompany them learn new ways to support learning, both at the program and at home.

Learning Together programs are currently located in four school facilities and operate 5 days per week, for 2.5 hours per day. This year we are also offering a program in collaboration with Kwanlin Dün First Nation Duska Headstart program 3 days a week. Learning Together teachers facilitate a variety of activities, including dramatic play, puzzles, books, blocks, stories, music, art, science, gym and are available to support children’s overall learning and development.

Caregivers attending the Learning Together program can expect to participate in organized sessions like circle time, in play activities, and in serving a healthy snack. Adults can discover new ways to support children’s learning at home and may make valuable connections with others in their community and learn about local services and resource providers in their area.

## Elders Project

Over the summer, the Elders’ Council met to discuss establishing an Elders’ Project. They also brainstormed on initiatives that the Elders would like to see in the future. Other initiatives such as financial planning; wills and estates; and, a review of the strategic plan for the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre were among the topics.

“Some of the proposed initiatives presented and other needs identified by the Elders are going to take a bit more work to complete but there is a desire to get things done,” said Elder Advisor, Judy Gingell.

*“I am encouraged by the support of this government to ensure the Elders have the services they need or at the very least be well-informed of the services available to them.”*

Another initiative coming out of the Elders’ Council meeting is fundraising for the Kwanlin Dün Emergency Fund. “This is an initiative where everyone can become engaged, including the Elders,” says Gingell. “We cannot always rely on the government in times of need. However, given the emergencies we have had in this community over the past several months, it has become apparent we need to have something in place which will enable us to contribute to Citizens experiencing hardship due to property loss or health issues.”

The Elders will offer support to the Community Emergency Fund by holding various fundraising events. Table fees from the Craft Fair that took place in late November generated funds for the Emergency Fund.

*For further information on the Elders Project and any upcoming meetings and activities, please contact Elder Advisor Judy Gingell at 633-7812. If you would like more information on the Elder fundraising initiatives, please contact, Eileen Vance-Duchesne at 633-7826.*

## Big Thank You to our KDFN Youth

Over the summer, four KDFN youth were hired to carry out a community clean-up project. Their tasks included: community cleanup; brushing around all buildings and the ball field; weeding and tree planting at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre and Nàkwät'à Kų Potlatch House; and, cleanup at the gun range and cleaning Elders' houses.

The summer project was a great success and working with the youth is a privilege," said Gary Bailie, KDFN Manager of

Capital. "The students were very enthusiastic and took great pride in improving their community."

Council echoed praise for the summer project and are looking to continue similar projects in the future.

"Their work has been very much appreciated," says Chief Doris Bill. "Projects like this provide summer jobs to our young people and demonstrate the pride we take in our community making it a better place for us all to live."

THANK YOU

## School Attendance

Kwanlin Dün administrators will be supporting KDFN families to ensure school success for every student through regular class attendance. We will be working closely with the Whitehorse teachers to make sure that no student is left behind due to poor attendance, in addition we will be determining where support is needed to make sure every student gets to school on time on a regular basis. If you have ideas that you would like to contribute to make school attendance successful for our students please call the House of Learning at 633-8422.

It is a known fact that:

- higher education is connected higher income levels
- reducing poverty requires higher employment rates
- higher employment rates requires higher graduation rates

## Social Assistance Review

Preliminary meetings with staff and Chief and Council regarding the KDFN Social Assistance Review have begun.

Community consultation began in November and information related to community involvement will be available beforehand.

We are asking Citizens to start thinking about what you would like to see for a KDFN Social Assistance Program. This is your opportunity to provide your input into an important KDFN initiative.

*For more information, contact the House of Learning, at 633-8422.*



# KDFN Partners in Teaching

Learning about the history and impact of residential schools is important for all Canadians. We have heard this message from students, parents, First Nations and other groups in Yukon and across Canada.



In response, Yukon Education's First Nations Programs and Partnerships Unit has been working with many partners to develop new, balanced resources to help teach about Canadian and Yukon residential schools in Social Studies 10.

Yukon Education's partners on this new initiatives include:

- Yukon First Nations Elders
- Former residential school students and their families
- Health support workers
- Yukon Social Studies teachers
- Yukon First Nations

Kwanlin Dün is supporting this initiative by providing permission to the Department of Education to incorporate its booklet, "I Let it go Now" into the curriculum for Yukon students.

## Support for students, families and communities

Along with our First Nations, community, school and federal health services partners, Yukon Education have made it a priority to make sure that support services are in place before, during and after this unit is taught in schools for our students, their families and their communities.

## Why learn about residential schools?

Teaching our children about residential schools is an important step on the journey of reconciliation.

We are recognizing the experiences of former residential school students, their families and their communities.

We are improving our understanding of a troubled time in Canada's history.

We are helping to build a better relationship between First Nations and Canadians for the future.

## What will students learn about?

- What it was like for students who attended residential schools in Canada and Yukon
- Impacts of residential schools on students, families and communities
- Different values and attitudes of the government, settlers and First Nations
- Government policies and actions that established the residential school system
- Role of the Churches in residential schools
- Journey toward reconciliation and events and activities across Canada and in Yukon



# Yukon Children about Residential Schools

## How will students learn?

There will be discussions, readings, videos, audio recordings, trips to significant sites and participation in community events.

Former residential school students and community members will be invited to visit classes to talk about local stories and experiences.

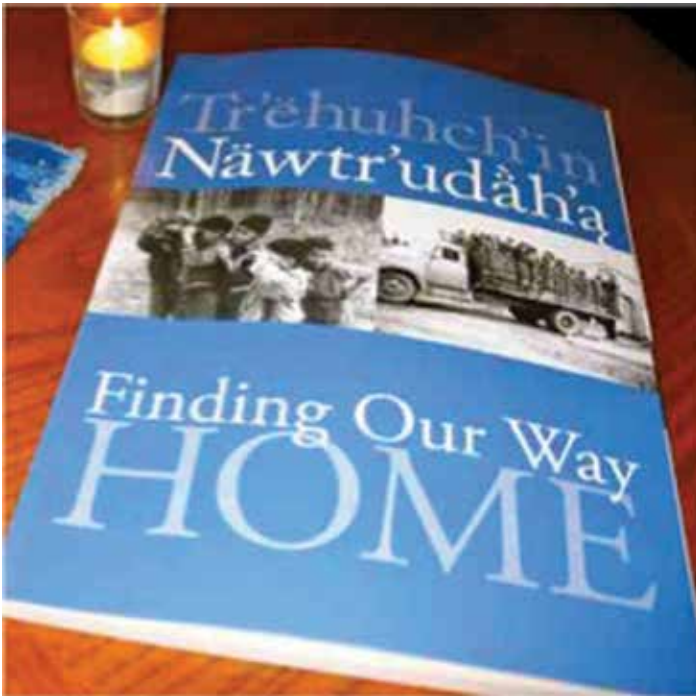
Students will be encouraged to be active citizens on our shared journey toward reconciliation.

## Preparing Teachers

In the fall, Yukon Education held a two-day workshop to prepare teachers to present this unit in a way that is respectful, collaborative, sensitive and supportive.

## How soon will this unit be in schools?

The resource is now ready and available to be taught in classes. Each community will determine when its school is ready to include this unit.



## The New Resource

A Complete Package that includes -

- Teacher's guide with:
  - Historical Background Information for Teachers – Canadian and Yukon
  - How To Prepare for the Unit
  - Teaching Sensitive/Controversial Issues
  - Collaborating with Local First Nations
  - Activities and resources – suggested activities, novels, videos, web links, songs, etc.
- Digital collection:
  - Stories from former residential school students and intergenerational survivors from Yukon communities
  - Apology from Prime Minister Harper and the Response to the Apology by First Nations representatives
- A Canadian and Yukon Timeline of Events (a take-home student version and a classroom version)
- A collection of novels and books with residential school themes are available

## Student Textbook

The new resource for Social Studies 10 uses a lot of information from the student textbook *Tł'ehuhch'in Nāwtr'udàh'ą* ("Finding Our Way Home").

This book was created by a group of former residential school students from Yukon First Nations who wanted students and Yukoners to know about their experiences at residential schools.

## Contact Yukon Education

*For more information, or if you would like to send Yukon Education stories or photos, please contact First Nations Programs and Partnerships, Yukon Education:*  
*Rene' Dove | 667-8179 | [irene.dove@gov.yk.ca](mailto:irene.dove@gov.yk.ca)*  
*Janet McDonald | 393-6905*  
*[janet.mcdonald@gov.yk.ca](mailto:janet.mcdonald@gov.yk.ca)*

# Supporting KDFN Students: A Message from KDFN's Community Education Liaison Coordinator

My name is Evelyn Troy and I am the Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC) for Kwanlin Dün First Nation students. My office is right across from the Library at Porter Creek Secondary School.

I work with students to provide support and liaise on their behalf with teachers, parents, administration staff and community members.

I provide KDFN students with personal counseling and help with academic concerns for students (Or you can just pop in for a chat). If a student needs more help with their studies, I can help arrange for tutoring, either at Porter Creek Secondary School, House of Learning or Skookum Jim Friendship Center. Please see me ASAP for any tutoring needed. I also monitor attendance and send home a monthly attendance letter to parents / guardians. I call on parents / guardians or make home visits when necessary regarding concerns with students. I also do 'check-ins' with students throughout the school year. I track

and update student data as needed. I can provide rides home when a student is ill or to appointments such as CHAOS interviews, ILC registrations, and so on, if I am available.

I help to arrange cultural events and so on with teachers for different classes and participate when I am available. I make visits to classes on occasion to help with activities. I provide support and liaison for our Elder in the school.

I attend PC staff meetings, School Council, School Growth Planning Committee, SBT meets, HOL staff meetings and attend 3 Way-Conferences to provide support to students, parents/guardians and teachers. I attend meetings with parents and teachers or Admin. or act as a stand-in for parents when they are not available. I also help with other in-school activities throughout the school year, ie: school dances, Orientation for grade eights, help out at front office at busy times when I can, attend Sports events, Survive-a-Thon, Terry Fox Run, attend Challenge Day event, Help with 'Open

House' and organize the 'Cultural Food Day' every year to name a few of the areas I am actively involved in. I also help by supporting other First Nation students at Porter Creek who do not have a CELC / ESW.

I host a 'Lunch' for all my KDFN students every few months @PC, FH and Vanier. This also provides me with another opportunity to talk with each student in a less formal setting. And food is always a welcome addition!

I provide support to all First Nation grads every year at PCSS and look after KDFN grads at FH, Vanier and the ILC. I am presently Vice President of the Graduation Committee and attend grad meetings regularly. I also provide info on scholarships, bursaries and other academic awards for grads.

*Parents / guardians, please feel free to call or make an appointment with me, so I don't miss seeing you, or drop by if you are at the school. Wishing all students a safe, fun and successful school year!*

**Important Note for Graduates:  
The First Nation Graduation this coming year will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

Check in with your parents / guardians about who will be making your traditional graduation dress or vest. It is a good idea to get started early on your dress or vest, as graduation is not that far away!



# Missing Aboriginal Women and Children

KDFN Chief and Council has sent a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, delivering their support for an “Inquiry into Missing Aboriginal Women and Children.”

In part, the letter reads:

“I write to you today in support of the call for an “Inquiry into Missing Aboriginal Women and Children”.

As I am sure you are aware, the inquiry is gaining support. Since this campaign has been initiated, all First Nation communities, hundreds of organizations and hundreds of thousands of Canadians have been very vocal about the need for this inquiry. Even Canadian Premiers have joined the lobby. This is not a whimper from a few individuals. This is a cry for help from the voting population. An inquiry would educate Canadians on the challenges faced by our First Nation women, bring some relief to families, and address the issue rather than letting it fester.

A report, released by the RCMP states almost 1,200 aboriginal women have gone missing or been murdered over the last three decades. I, on the other hand, believe these numbers are much higher than indicated and those numbers continue to grow daily. While an inquiry will not provide all the answers, it would serve as an important step toward healing. No, an inquiry will not change the past but it would demonstrate the willingness to learn, empower our women and children and provide solutions going forward.

In closing, on behalf of Kwanlin Dün First Nation, I ask you to be part of the solution and step up to the plate by making a formal call for the “Inquiry into Missing Aboriginal Women and Children”. Collectively and constructively, we must contribute to solutions, act to increase hope for the safe return of those missing, and, once again make our communities safe for aboriginal women and children.”

## Savings on Home Heating Fuel Rates Extended to KDFN Citizens

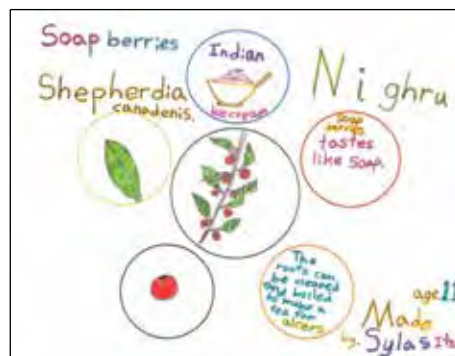
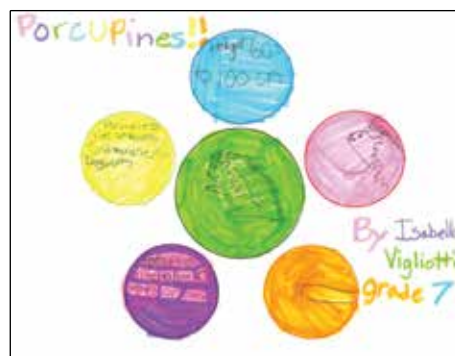
Environmental Refuelling Systems (ERS) is extending a special rate to Kwanlin Dün First Nation and all KDFN Citizens living in the Whitehorse area. The company is extending its commercial rate for fuel for KDFN and all KDFN Citizens which is 3 cents off per liter.

To take advantage of the savings, be sure to let them know that you are a KDFN Citizen when calling to order fuel.

Environmental Refuelling Systems is located at 100B Platinum Road and can be reached by calling 668-4441.

# Presenting the Natural World from the Perspective of KDFN Youth

Students who participated in KDFN Recreation camps and the summer tutoring program each created a page with facts and illustrations about a plant or animal. In partnership with Dusk'a, Vera Brown worked individually with students to include Southern Tutchone names and to practice pronunciation. Plans are in the works to create a book of student work shown below.





# Youth say skiing fosters connectedness – to self, family, community, the land, and spirituality

Last spring, Kwanlin Koyote Ski Club youth alumni got to share why they ski, from their perspective. While skiing with graduate researcher and local ski coach Sara Nielsen, they talked about what they valued (or not) about skiing, the ski club and being on the land. The study explored two questions: What meaning Aboriginal youth place on their participation in outdoor recreation programs intended to build their health, resilience and connection to the land? And how can Indigenous methodologies be used in outdoor recreation research?

Through the impact that skiing has had on their lives, the youth shared benefits to more than just the physical body and land. They showed an understanding of the holistic health benefits that skiing offered them in exercise and time alone on the land to work on their mental, physical, emotional and spiritual selves. The youth also mentioned how skiing, time on the land, and the club's mentorship fostered a sense of connectedness to family, community, tradition and the land itself. Who knew a simple activity could do so much?

In her thesis, "Back to the Land, on Skis", Sara also highlights how Indigenous Methodologies and place-based active interviews can be effective in building meaningful relationships and rich knowledge in the field of outdoor recreation. Nielsen suggests that adequate time should be dedicated to building trusting, collaborative relationships and ensuring that respect, responsibility, reciprocity and relevance guide the development of social and outdoor research, policy, and programs aimed toward Aboriginal youth and communities across the north.

Sara would like to extend a big thank you to participants, parents and volunteers in the Kwanlin Koyote Ski Club who welcomed her into their community. In particular, the three young leaders who came forward, volunteered their time and shared their personal experiences – Alice Frost, Ekko Trociuk and Montana Bailie. They are already leading the way back to the land, and encouraging others to follow.



*Come out and give skiing a try! Contact Joseph at 668-7289 ext. 242 or drop by the Kwanlin Koyote ski hut (behind the Health Centre) Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm or on weekends. There is equipment available for all ages – not just kids! And look forward the New Year's Eve community ski and celebration – everyone is invited!*

See you on the trails!

*Contributed by Masters Student, Sara Nielsen*



# Deadline Extension for CEP \$3000 Personal Credits has been Granted – Apply Today!

**Those of you that went to Residential School and received Common Experience Payment, you are eligible for \$3000.00**

Personal Credits funds can be used for:

- Education or Training Tuition or Materials including computers, books or gear for training. Yukon College will order computers for you once you have received your acceptance forms. You don't have to be a student to access this service. They have agreements with Dell and Apple for special orders. Applicants must go online and print out an order as well as the software to bring to college book store for 'Special Order'.
- Culture, Land and Language-based learning including traditional knowledge courses taught by Elders, culture camps, healing, and on-the-land activities including: Hunting, fishing, trapping, tanning, canoeing, camping; harvesting and preparing traditional foods and medicines; artistic and cultural expression including beadwork, sewing, carving, painting, storytelling, traditional games and drum making, hand drum songs,


traditional dancing and traditional language lessons; traditional laws and values including roles, rites of passage and First Nation governance.

The process of forming a 'Culture Group' for activities that will run under Kwanlin Dün First Nation is in progress. This is for financial administration and reporting purposes for the Indian Residential School Common Experience Personal Credits. Non-KDFN Citizens signing up for Culture Group must confirm that a KDFN Citizen will benefit from the knowledge gained through their chosen activity.

*To learn more, contact Norman Drynock or Barb Crawford at KDFN House of Learning at 633-8422. If you did not receive your forms and for lost forms, you can call: 1-866-343-1858 and request them by fax. Note: KDFN Citizens may use the fax number of any KDFN office to receive forms.*

**Kwanlin Dün First Nation**

[www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com)

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