



Selkirk First Nation



Spring 2016

SFN News • Volume 12 • Issue 2

Share, Care, Teach, Respect



# Hets Eday

Telling Stories

Photo: A Sign of Spring  
in Pelly Crossing

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## A message from your Chief Kevin McGinty

Greetings Citizens and Community members,

Winter is now gone and spring is here! And a mild winter it was, which did allow us to take advantage of spending more time out on the land, and not having to prepare for the -50 cold spells was a benefit for the Elders.

With spring here, it brings a fresh start to a new fiscal year. As SFN is in full work plan and budget mode, we are pleased to say the Departments are getting very close to finalizing the 2016/17 annual budgets. Once completed the next step is to present them to the Finance Committee and the Family Heads. This is to ensure the SFN Government is transparent and has captured the Citizens priorities offered through departments programs and services. Council would like to extend thanks to the Directors, staff, Committees, Family Heads for the full cooperation in making the budget process a success.

Council continues to review and work on the 3-year Strategic Plan that lays out the priorities for the coming year as well as reviewing the Resolutions from previous General Assemblies.

One of the main files Council continued to work on is the 2015 General Assembly resolutions on the housing shortage in Pelly Crossing. The Council and Family Heads decided to get started on this issue and allocated money from the sale of SFN'S shares in the Yukon Inn to address the housing needs of the community. The Capital Department is assessing existing houses and is working with the Housing Committee to develop a plan to address the issue. This year, we are also planning to build the Early Childhood Development Centre. Looking back over the winter months, the SFN Government

has continued working towards providing accountability and transparency through providing updates and collecting feedback from Citizens. The SFN Committees have also been busy consulting with Citizens (see updates on page 10). Working in unity to build a strong sustainable future for our generations to come. One of the important files currently being developed is the Code of Conduct document. This is a document, once finalised, will be implemented within the workplace and community, capturing the values on share, care, teach, respect. This is an area that Elders often refer to and they do so to ensure we all honor our traditional values.

Our Land's Department is developing a Salmon Management Plan to ensure that our future generations can also enjoy the Chinook salmon. Our Heritage Department is organizing the May Gathering, which is always a great opportunity to gather on the land. The new Federal government is also initializing change and trying to rebuild the relationship with Aboriginal people. On April 8, SFN along with the other Yukon Self-governing First Nations, CYFN, Yukon government and INAC signed a MOU to renew our relationship (see story on page 10).

Council would like to acknowledge one of our Elders, Elder Danny Joe. He was received the annual Keish Elder Recognition Award in Whitehorse this past February. Congratulations Elder Danny! (See story on page 4.)

In moving forward, Council and the departments continue to work on the priorities laid out in the 3 year priorities list (Seen on page 3). We have also worked towards building capacity within the Government. The Restructuring of the Governance office is almost at its full capacity, with two vacancies; Operation Director and the Communications Officer. Look for employment postings at the Office and website. Council is pleased to say we have a new Elders and Family Heads Support worker. Congratulations Emma Alfred on your new role. Emma has been busy with getting settled into her new job to meet the needs of the SFN Elders. Look for postings for monthly scheduled meetings.

Each year Council hosts the Staff Long Service awards day at Jackfish Lake. This year marks the 3rd annual recognition day. With committing to countless hours of research, the Personnel Officer and the Finance Payroll Clerk now have updated data on all staff. We can continue thanking staff for their hard work and commitment to the organization. (See story on page 9.)

SFN Staff participated in a full day of Professional Development on March 10th. An Organizational Change workshop was offered and well received by the staff. It was a perfect time to incorporate this awareness into the workplace as positive changes have been taking place over the past few months. Thank you Sandra Roach for assisting in providing this service. Creating a safe and healthy work environment for all staff and our visitors is important for our Government.

## Council Update

### New Deputy Chief

Chief & Council have appointed Milly Johnson as Deputy Chief effective April 1, 2016 to July 31, 2016. Council has determined that each Council representative should have the opportunity to act as Deputy Chief. Therefore, Annabelle Vance-Kurenoff and Ashley Van Bibber will each act as Deputy Chief, for 3 months respectively. Chief and Council appreciate George Magrum's hard work and dedication during his 6 months as Deputy Chief for SFN.

### January

The quarterly investment meeting took place on January 15th and in April as well. Toronto Dominion Bank and Royal Bank of Canada provided updates to Council on SFN's investments. A community investment meeting will be held in mid-July.

Presented by the Human Resources Department, council reviewed the Human Resources Policy. Copies of the HR Policy is in binders and accessible to all Directors, Managers and staff.

Council reviewed its 3-year Strategic Plan and established its priorities for the next year, which included housing and infrastructure needs; and placing greater emphasis on community wellness by increasing funds for treatment programs, healing and traditional values. Also, Council is focusing on economic development which includes local business opportunities, tourism planning and efforts to restore a traditional economy.

### February

Welcome aboard Beth Millington as the new Executive Assistant. Council met with the Elders Council and the Family Heads to discuss the housing crisis. It was agreed that the proceeds from the sale of SFN's shares in the Yukon Inn would be used to alleviate the housing issue.

Council met with Minto Mine and organized a community meeting with Minto representatives to give an update on the future of Minto Mine and the continued employment opportunities during the possible temporary closure (more on page 15).

Council recognizes the importance of capacity building for our youth. Through traditional teachings and On-the-Land programs such as the Fish and Wildlife Monitoring program, 6 SFN Citizens are certified graduates.

### March

Council held a joint meeting with Family Heads to give a financial update as well as review the applications for Selkirk Development Corporation's Board of Directors (more on page 6).



**Photo:** Council and Family Heads Meeting

The Capital Department presented housing options to the Family Heads and Council on March 29th to get started on construction for the upcoming building season (more on page 8).

Greater focus is being directed towards community wellness including increased treatment programs and funding, healing within the community through the Truth and Reconciliation roundtable, family violence and prevention of violence against women workshops.

The restoration of traditional values continues to be a high priority through heightened support for maintaining Dooli Law.

### April

Spring marks the beginning of the fiscal year and exciting changes for SFN. Departments have completed their work plans for the upcoming year to incorporate SFN priorities set forth in January.

A Community Educational Awareness meeting was held April 4th to assist parents and help students to be successful in school. Participants suggested meetings be held quarterly to invite feedback and to support parents and students.

The upcoming General Assembly dates are set for July 15th, 16th and 17th, 2016.

## 3-Year Strategic Plan

The SFN Council has a 3 Year Strategic Plan for 2014-2017, to create a strong foundation for long term community wellness.

During community consultations, listed below is what we heard from the citizens. Council had included the priorities into the Departmental work plans.

- 1. Support the Education of our community members across all ages.**
- 2. Provide safe Housing.**
- 3. Protect and respect the use of our Land.**
- 4. Support Healing in our Community.**



## Elder Danny Joe honoured at Folklore Show

The Skookum Jim Friendship Centre hosted their Folklore Show, which brings together residents from all around the Territory in an evening of song, dance, and other entertainment. The Folklore Show showcases various First Nation performing artists from around the Territory.

Every year at the Folklore Show two nominated Elders are honoured and awarded the “Keish Elder Recognition Awards”. The award is given to Elders in different communities throughout the Yukon that have made a difference in the lives of others, and have made outstanding contributions to their respective communities.

This year, Danny Joe was honoured for his important contributions to advancing, not only Selkirk First Nation self-government and land claim agreements, but taking part in the import-

ant work in creating “Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow”. He also contributed to the Umbrella Final Agreement which paved the way for Yukon First Nations to become self-determining. Danny was Chief for the Selkirk Band from 1969 to 1984.

In 1973, Chief Danny Joe was part of the delegation that presented the pivotal document, “Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow” to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Jean Chrétien. “It was quite the experience to go to the Parliament Building to meet the Prime Minister” declares Danny.

He says it may have been a long and difficult process but “we did it and now all we have to worry about is making the right choices to operate a good First Nation office. I’m proud to have been part of the that whole negotiation process because by signing our Self-governing and Land Claims agreement in 1997, we are self-sufficient.”

Danny Joe, Dek’aa deche keko nathat (Little Boy Standing by his dad) from the Wolf Clan was born on April 25, 1929 to Ben and Frances Joe (Suza) at Russell Creek, little gold mine McMillian River.

Danny was raised at Russell Creek, Moose Creek and Mica Creek where he learned from his father the traditional lifestyle of hunting and trapping. Danny remembers going to his mother’s homeland of Tulita (Fort Norman), NWT by foot.

Danny Married Betty Roberts in 1955, together they raised 8 children.

At the age of 87, Danny continues to be a vibrant member of his community. He sits on the Elders’ Council and helps his First Nation in decision-making. He still traps and hunts. He takes great pride and joy in teaching his grandchildren and others the traditional lifestyle.

# Rebecca Roberts walks the runway in Denver, Colorado

Our very own Rebecca Roberts, represented not only the Yukon but Canada on the big stage in Denver, Colorado at a recent fashion show called Native Fashion in the City.

Rebecca Roberts was in the U.S. as she was chosen to be a part of Native Fashion Now put on by NativeMax Magazine. She was only one of two Canadians at the show.

Although it wasn't Rebecca's first time on the runway, she was thrilled to meet top American First Nation designers.

"They are so inspiring," Roberts said.

Since October 2015, Rebecca has signed up with an Alberta company named Great West Canadian Talent. She is hoping to launch a career in acting.

Rebecca is the new community reporter for CBC's A New Day. Let her know when there are events happening in Pelly Crossing.

"I want to be a good role model for youth and my people" declared Roberts. That's exactly what she's doing.

Visit her Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/rebecca.alfredroberts](http://www.facebook.com/rebecca.alfredroberts)



**Left:** Rebecca Roberts on the runway in Denver, Colorado. **Right:** Rebecca interviewed for the NativeMax Magazine

## Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations and best wishes goes out to the following 2016 high school graduates:

**Kindra Stewert, Corey Roberts, Danielle VanBibber, Tahyah VanBibber**

The CYFN graduation is scheduled for Friday May 27th 2016 at 1pm in Whitehorse.

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2016 Yukon College graduates:

**Janelle Hager and Darlene McGinty**

The Yukon College graduation is scheduled for Friday May 20th at 11am in Whitehorse.



# SELKIRK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## Selkirk Development Corporation Update

### The Selkirk Group of Companies consists of:

- Selkirk Development Corporation: (Administration/Real Estate)
- 39539 Yukon Incorporated (Minto Mine contracts)
- 15394 Yukon Incorporated (Pelly Wildland Fire Suppression Company)
- SFN Holdings Ltd. (Pelly Operations Company)
- 39550 Yukon Incorporated (Holds the SFN Sewage Lagoon)

### Board of Directors:

Audrey Baker, Michelle Kolla, Darin Isaac and Jeremy Harper. Administrative Staff: Bonnie Roberts (8 years) and Bernice Blatman (4 years).

### Highlights for this quarter include the following:

- CEO, Ernie Bourassa and Director, Michelle Kolla, attended the Opportunities North Conference in Whitehorse on October 27-29, 2015.
- CEO, Ernie Bourassa, attended the Canadian Aboriginal Mining Association (CAMA) in Vancouver from November 22 – 24, 2015.
- CEO, Ernie Bourassa, Director, Jeremy Harper, Mining Advisor, Robert Hathaway and Office Manager, Bonnie Roberts, attended the Mineral Exploration Roundup in January 24 – 28, 2016. We met with several companies to discuss

possible partnerships on a variety of opportunities. This event has always been a very busy time for Selkirk Development. SDC also shared a booth with Council of Yukon First Nations. Bonnie's highlight of the conference this year was talking to people from South America. They were looking for First Nation organizations in Canada to share knowledge and experiences in dealing with Mining Opportunities on their traditional territories. People were invited to attend the Yukon First Nations night sponsored by CYFN, where they could meet some of the Yukon First Nations chiefs or representatives.

- The Directors and CEO, Ernie Bourassa, travelled to Pelly Crossing on March 8, 2016 for a quarterly update meeting with Selkirk First Nation Council and also provided an update at the Elders/Family Head Representatives Meeting on March 9, 2016.
- **Selkirk Center (SFN Holdings Ltd):** The store is doing very well at this time. A **SFN Elders discount of 10% is now in effect for Citizens who are 55 years and over.** This discount is on groceries only. There are plans in place for new fuel pumps to be installed before the busy summer season. SDC also plans to have pumps installed for midgrade and premium fuel. We continue to explore hot food options for the store, and plan to have something in place by the summer. The Selkirk Center is recruiting for full and part-time staff for the summer season. Please contact Patty Isaac at the store.

The SDC administration and store management work closely and continue to look at options to increase the service at the store.

A big "Thank you" to the management and staff of the Selkirk Center for their hard work.

- **Minto Resorts:** The 2016 contract with Holland America is signed. Minto Resorts will be providing catered lunches again this summer to Holland America. Margaret Isaac, will be leaving the store for the summer and returning as the Catering

and Site Manager at Minto Resorts. We will begin employment recruitment soon for this upcoming season. We require 6 employees to work in shifts of 14 days on and 14 days off, with 3 employees per shift. Accommodations are provided at the site for employees. We are also recruiting people who would like to work as an on-call employee for this season. The season begins in mid May and ends in early September. If you are interested, please submit your resume to the SDC office.

• **15394 Yukon Inc.:(Pelly Fire Company)**

This year the season begins on April 25, 2016 until the end of August 2016. There is a Crew Member Training course being offered by Government of Yukon scheduled for May 2 -13, 2016. The delegates must stay at the camp which is located at the Whitehorse Cadet Camp south of Whitehorse. This course is for new employees

or anyone who may be interested in this field. The Pelly Fire Company has secured 2 seats for this training opportunity and will sponsor 2 selected individuals. We are also looking to fill a vacant position for one crew member and one trainee position this season. The trainee position is an excellent opportunity for an individual interested in this field of work and looking to gain experience through on-the-job training. If you are interested in any of these positions, please call Bonnie Roberts or Ernie Bourassa at the SDC office, or submit your resume to our office.

We wish you all a great spring and summer!

**Please visit our website at [www.selkirkdevcorp.com](http://www.selkirkdevcorp.com).**

We are located at: #201- 166 Titanium Way, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 0G1, Phone: (867)393-2181, or Fax: (867)393-2182

## Council Calendar – May

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 <b>Citizen Department Meeting</b> 10AM – 10:30AM	6	7
8 <b>Happy Mother's Day</b>	9 <b>Audit Visit Week</b> SFN Building <b>SMT Meeting</b>	10 <b>C&amp;C Meeting</b> 10AM – 5PM <b>EVB Council Mtg</b> EVBS School 7PM- 7:30PM	11 <b>Budget Review</b> Big Room 10AM – 5PM	12 <b>Dooli Team Update</b> Link Building 1PM – 4PM	13 <b>Enrollment Mtg</b> Big Room 10AM – 12PM	14
15	16	17 <b>CYFN Leadership Meetings</b>	18 <b>CYFN Leadership Meetings</b>	19 <b>CYFN Leadership Meetings</b>	20 <b>Yukon College Graduation</b> Whitehorse 2PM – 2:30PM	21
22	23 <b>Victoria Day</b> Stat Holiday	24 <b>May Gathering</b> Minto Landing	25 <b>May Gathering</b> Minto Landing	26 <b>May Gathering</b> Minto Landing <b>Chief on Leave</b>	27 <b>CYFN Grad</b> Whitehorse 2PM – 2:30PM	28
29	30	31 <b>C&amp;C Meeting</b> 10AM – 5PM				

## Capital Department Update

Adam Van Biber, Director of the Capital Department is taking leave for a year to concentrate on his business. We wish him success. Scott Sawyer is acting as Director until further notice. The position was posted and will be filled as a one-year term.

SFN Capital Department is updating its Integrated Community Sustainability and Capital Plans. The last plan was completed in 2007.

SFN has developed a priorities list for infrastructure based upon input from Council and the public during the YTG Cabinet Tour to discuss the budget on March 2, 2016 in Pelly Crossing. Chief and Council and Citizens of Pelly Crossing met with the Honourable Brad Cathers and Darius Elias.

The priorities will be incorporated into SFN 2016 Community Sustainability Plan and 10

Year Capital Plan forecast. The information will enable SFN officials to begin a constructive and positive dialogue with Government of Canada and Yukon officials to plan and secure financial commitments to address our new and existing infrastructure projects within Pelly Crossing over the next 5-10 years.

### HOUSING ASSESSMENT AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

During a General Assembly, the SFN Council was mandated to find solutions for the current and future demands for housing. The resolutions passed in 2014 and 2015 stated there were concerns with the shortage and poor condition of housing units in Pelly Crossing. Another resolution called for the establishment of a Housing Policy to guide the housing process. SFN has started the process to address the housing needs of its Citizens. The Housing Committee with the input of Citizens will assist with the development of a SFN Housing Policy.

Presently, the Capital Department is assessing and inspecting all Selkirk houses located in Pelly Crossing. Once this is completed, all data collected will be transferred to a capital database to begin a Housing Inspection Plan.

Selkirk First Nation owns and is responsible for maintaining 140 houses in Pelly Crossing. Housing applications are open for all of our 671 Citizens. There are 291 Citizens living in Pelly Crossing and 380 live outside. As of 2015, the number of Citizens applying for housing was at 61 applications.

The work that is being done by the Capital department and the Housing Committee will provide a clear picture of the needs and the costs of housing. Careful consideration will be given to all options before a decision is made.

## Announcements

### N-huudlin Dzenú Sóthän Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday Cuz' – **MARY MCGINTY**  
April 10th from Laura and Ian

Happy Birthday to my best friend and many more – April 13 – **VELMA SILAS** – from Laura and Ian

Happy Birthday to **LAURA JOE** – April 8- from Rosemary Sam

Happy Birthday **AUDREY TRUDEAU** – May 15  
Love your family



**Top-Left:** Jerlene catch of the day!



## Employees Recognition Award for Long Service 2016

The purpose of this day is to recognize the contributions and dedication of long term employees. SFN values all employees and wishes to acknowledge them annually.

Selkirk First Nation held a long service award day for employees at Jackfish Lake on March 17th (a benefit of the SFN HR Policy).

### Employees that were recognized are:

Mathew Fairclough	5 Years
Dean Gill	10.5 Years
Valerie Staub	10.5 Years
Mario Menzi	15.5 Years
Lena Joe	20.5 Years
Betty Baptiste	25 Years

## Welcome New Staff!

Elizabeth Millington – Executive Assistant  
Emma Alfred –  
Elders and Family Heads Support Worker  
Cindy McGinty –  
Home and Community Care Coordinator  
Shannon Morrison – Recreation



**Above:** Thank you to the Social Team: Annette, Ashley, Lori and Kiefer for coordinating this day.

Amy Johnny and Ken Harper –  
Homelessness Project  
Carmen Baker –  
Wellness Coordinator Assistant  
Courtney Alfred –  
Early Childhood Development Centre

## First Intergovernmental Forum in Over 6 Years

For the first time in nearly 6 years, the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Carolyn Bennett, along with Government of Yukon Premier, Darrell Pasloski, Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) Grand Chief Ruth Massie and Yukon self-governing First Nation Chiefs met at the Intergovernmental Forum in Whitehorse to discuss common priorities and renew relationships.

One of the highlights of the Forum was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Canada, Yukon, the CYFN and the self-governing Yukon First Nations that outlines mutually agreeable key steps towards addressing many of the First Nations' concerns regarding recent changes to the *Yukon*

*Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA).*

The Government of Canada will now work to repeal the four contentious amendments to the YESAA. Revised legislation will be drafted in collaboration with Yukon First Nations, the Government of Yukon and other key stakeholders.

Other priorities discussed at the Intergovernmental Forum included a number of fiscal matters, an update on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

## Committees Updates

### CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

#### Members are:

- Danielle Sawyer
- Dorothy Mitander-Graham
- Lizzie Hall
- Candice Menzi
- Nester Hager

Last fall, the Constitution Committee consulted with SFN Citizens in Pelly Crossing, Whitehorse, via webcast and mail outs to get their input on the proposed amendments to the Election Act. The proposed amendments will clarify the Act and improve the Election process. The consultation focused on five key areas: Election Committee, Nominations, Voting Age, The Verification of Qualifications for Office, and Dispute Resolution.

Also, the Committee was directed by a GA resolution to develop a SFN Code of Conduct Policy. Once the draft is ready, the Committee will seek input from Citizens. During this development process, the

Committee compared and consulted other Yukon First Nations' Code of Conduct Policies and Legislation and worked with the Traditional Law Researcher to incorporate the work of the Dooli Working Group.

### CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE

The Citizenship Committee consists of five SFN Citizens which includes three members of the Elders Council, and chosen by the Elders Council.

- Lizzie Hall
- Alice Joe
- Harry McGinty
- Lois Joe
- Roger Alfred

When a person wishes to apply to be enrolled as a beneficiary and Citizen under the SFN Final Agreement, they send an application to the Citizenship Committee. A person also may apply on behalf of his or her minor or adopted child.

# Government Business

The Citizenship Committee reviews each Citizenship application within a reasonable time, and determines whether the applicant is qualified to be a Citizen and makes recommendations to Council who makes the final decision.

The Citizenship Committee notifies the applicant on whether Council approves their application, they qualify to be a Citizen and the name of the person is entered on the Citizenship List.

The Citizenship Committee makes best efforts to protect the privacy of the applicant.

## HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Housing Committee includes three SFN Citizens and 2 SFN employees (Health and Social Director and Capital Director)

- Tara Roberts
- Teri Lee Isaac
- Carmen Baker
- Freda Alfred (alternate)
- Lucy McGinty (as the representative of Health and Social Department)
- Darin Isaac (as the representative of Capital)

The newly appointed Housing Committee is developing a new SFN Housing Policy which will guide SFN's decision making processes

regarding housing allocation. The Housing Committee is assisting with the housing strategy which includes the construction of new homes and upgrades to current infrastructure in existing homes and community buildings.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Members are:

- Lois Joe
- Jean O'Brien
- Bill Trerice
- Sharon Nelson
- Zach Fulton

The Selkirk First Nation's Finance Committee was mandated at the 2012 General Assembly to consult SFN Citizens on the Special Purposes Fund (remainder of the Royalty Fund on hand from Minto Mine).

The Finance Committee has engaged SFN Citizens both near and far. They held consultation sessions in Whitehorse, Pelly Crossing and via webcast in order to reach as many Citizens as possible.

The Finance Committee will report back to Citizens in early June and will present recommendations on how to use the Special Purposes Fund at the 2016 General Assembly. The recommendations will be based on Citizens' input.





**Clockwise from top:** 1) Family Sliding Party; 2) Family Fishing Day at Jackfish Lake hosted by Heritage Department; 3) Northern Tutchone lessons at ECDC; 4) Happy Easter from ECDC Program



**Clockwise from top left:** 1) Easter Treats; 2) Barbecuing; 3) Tatum Lake Trout; 4) Community Consultation by Finance Committee; 5) Yukon College training.



# Care and Maintenance at the Faro Mine

Chief and Council had their first meeting on Tuesday March 22nd with Parsons Inc., the company that was recently awarded the four-year Care and Maintenance contract for the Faro mine site from the Yukon Government. Their contract deals mostly with treating the water at the Faro Mine Complex but it also includes ongoing site monitoring, and ensuring there is no harm to the environment and people working at the site. The scope of the Care and Maintenance contract does not include any work on the long-term remediation of the site, which is a separate initiative entirely.

The company is the Canadian arm of Parsons. It is a full-service engineering and construction firm with over 1,000 employees in Canada. Parsons told the Council they have been operating in Canada, including the Yukon, for over 70 years.

One of their areas of specialty is environmental remediation. For example, Parsons was involved in cleaning up the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and most recently the deconstruction of the Roaster complex at the Giant Mine in Yellowknife.

Parsons took over responsibility for Care and Maintenance on April 1st. Most of the employees that were already working on the project will continue to work at the site. However, Parsons says there will be future training, employment and subcontracting opportunities for Affected Yukon First Nations (SFN, Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation) at the site.

The company's immediate priority is to deal with the spring melt to ensure all clean water is diverted from site, and any impacted water is safely treated prior to release into the environment. They will also follow-up on the meeting with Chief and Council to continue to talk about training, employment and contracting opportunities related to the project.

Parsons also met with the Selkirk Development Corporation (SDC) two days after the meeting with Chief and Council to learn about SDC and talk about possible future business opportunities.

You can learn more about Parsons on their website: [www.parsons.com](http://www.parsons.com).



### Minto Mine – Community Update

Capstone's Ron Light, Minto Mine Manager and Tomas Iturraga-Hildago, Vice-President, North American Operations, held a public meeting in Pelly Crossing in February to inform SFN Citizens on the potential temporary closure of the Mine in April 2017. It is expected the mine would go into care and maintenance. Mr. Light doesn't know how many employees would be kept on at that point. However, they are doing everything possible to keep as many people employed as possible.

Mr. Light said work will be scaled back starting this spring, when underground mining is put on hold.

Minto certainly hasn't run out of copper – it is estimated that there's enough material to mine Minto North until 2022. However, copper prices have to be higher to be able to make a profit. The price of copper is currently about \$1.95 a pound. It cost the company about \$2.40 a pound to produce the metal in 2015. Right now the mine is just keeping its "head above water."

Unless copper prices rise significantly in the next year, a temporary closure is inevitable.

Minto currently employs over 300 people - 162 Capstone employees and 160 contractor employees. Its two major contractors are Dumas Mining, which employs the 40 underground miners to be let go this spring, and Whitehorse-based Pelly Construction, which employs about 76 people at the mine.

### Federal Budget Highlights

The spending commitments to Aboriginal Peoples are considered one of the central themes of the federal government's first fiscal blueprint, with \$8.4-billion over the next five years aimed at bringing about "transformational change."

The greatest portion of the money goes toward First Nations education – \$2.6-billion over the next five years for primary and secondary schooling on reserves –

SFN is looking into how we can access some of these programs.

**May Gathering  
dates have been scheduled  
for May 24th to 27th  
at Minto Landing.**

For more information contact Rebecca Roberts

# Arctic Winter Games Winners

At the Arctic Winter Games this year, the Yukon stood out for their outstanding performance in the Dene Games category. The Yukon won 12 gold medals.

## DENE GAMES GOLD MEDALS:

### Handgames

- Junior female: Maureen McGinty, Jessa Klugie, Ashton Clooten.
- Junior male: Jedrek Dendys, Antonio Tessaro, Kadin Hare, Thaeron Green.
- Open male: Matthew Brown, Terrence O'brien, Tyler O'brien, Ryan Long.

### Pole-Push

- Junior male: Jedrek Dendys

According to Doronn Fox, coach for the Dene Games of Team Yukon, the athletes did amazing in Greenland, always helping each other and cheering each other on. "The competitiveness was on point when competition came up. I was and still am very proud, I couldn't have asked for more," stated Fox.

One notable thing about the Gold medals is no contingent in the history of the Dene Games at the Arctic Winter Games has ever dominated the

Handgames or Pole-Push like the Yukon did this year. Out of a possible 4-team Gold, Team Yukon won 3 Gold, which translates to 12 Gold medals for team Yukon. SFN Citizens, Maureen McGinty and Jessa Klugie belonged to one of the Yukon Gold winning teams for the Handgames.

"Our Yukon contingent has always been known for being outgoing, friendly, and most of all fun. We kept up that tradition this year in Greenland. Even though we were stuck at an army base for 2 days with no wash-up stuff and no change of clothes, the athletes still smiled."

The Arctic Winter Games only happens every two years. Fox decided to take the initiative and keep Dene Games going year round starting in May. "We want any youth interested in joining to come to practices and participate in fundraising. We want the Yukon to know that Dene Games are here and we want to teach, play and respect the sport not just so we can win more medals but to keep the tradition of our ancestors."

You can go to the Team Yukon Dene Games Facebook page, or contact Coach Doronn Fox directly at 867.335.4479 or by email at [karmacidfox\\_247\\_df@hotmail.com](mailto:karmacidfox_247_df@hotmail.com)



**Photo Left:** Arctic Winter Games 2016 - Team Yukon for Dene Games. **Photo Right:** From left to right: Ashley Clooten, Jessie Klugie, Sarina Prizmozic and Maureen McGinty



**Photo Left:** Spirit Dancers Group Leader, Carmen Baker **Photo Right:** Rendezvous Handgames Tournament at the Kwanlin Dün Potlatch House

## Annual Rendezvous Handgames Tournament

The 18th Annual Rendezvous Handgames tournament was held February 26th, 27th and 28th at the potlatch house in McIntyre, Whitehorse, Yukon.

The 14 Nations Handgames Society organised the event.

The three-days started with free stew and bannock and performances from different First Nations. The performances showcased traditional song and dance. SFN's very own Spirit Dancers were once again on stage showcasing our dances and songs. The handgames started Saturday morning and ended Sunday night. There were 19 adult teams and 7 youth teams.

### The winners are :

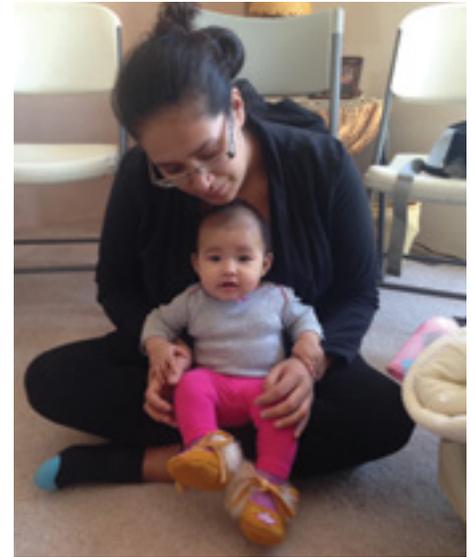
- 1st place – "21" – Selkirk First Nation
- 2nd – da dun da das – Whitehorse
- 3rd – kaska Archers – Ross River

### Upcoming Handgames

On Mother's day weekend, May 6th to the 8th, there will be an all women's 6 on 6 handgames tournament at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse. All profit and donations will be given to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations will host the Annual Stickgambling Tournament. Dates have yet to be confirmed. You can visit 14 First Nations Handgames Society's facebook page for more information.

# Department updates



**Photos:** Participants at the Family Violence and Prevention of Violence against Women Workshops

## Health & Social Development

### WELLNESS

Reanna Mohamed is the new Working on Wellness (WoW)/Community Partnership Coordinator.

WoW is a three-year workplace wellness program that began in October 2013. It is part of the Coalitions Linking Action and Science for Prevention (CLASP) initiative, which brings together health organizations across Canada to improve the health of Canadians by preventing chronic disease.

### WALK PROGRAM

The Walking Program is starting again in June. The draw for last year's participants will happen at the start of this year's program. The Walking Program encourages people to be active and healthy. The "walk" is equivalent to walking from Pelly to Carmacks and back. The program starts this summer. Contact Lori Joe for more information.

### PELLY CROSSING TO START A CANHELP PROJECT

The CANHelp Working Group is a community-driven research approach in northern

communities to: 1) describe the burden of disease from *H. pylori* infection, and 2) exchange knowledge with community members and decision makers to identify ways to reduce health risks from this infection.

### **H. PYLORI**

*H. pylori* is short for *Helicobacter pylori*. It is the name of bacteria that infect the stomach. About half of the world population has chronic *H. pylori* infection, which irritates the stomach lining, causing gastritis. Most people with *H. pylori* infection don't feel sick. Some get long-lasting stomach discomfort and a small percent get serious diseases like stomach ulcers, and much more rarely, stomach cancer.

Pelly Crossing is partnering with the CANHelp Working Group to start our own local project. The project aims to address concerns voiced in our community about health risks from *H. pylori* infection.

Look for postings on upcoming workshops. You can visit the CANHelp website [canhelpworkinggroup.ca](http://canhelpworkinggroup.ca) or contact Lori Joe at [joelori@selkirkfn.com](mailto:joelori@selkirkfn.com) 867.537.3331

# Department Updates

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

The SFN Council and the Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC) Manager, Lori Sims, are planning for the construction of the new Early Childhood Development Centre in Pelly Crossing. The Capital Department Director, Adam VanBibber, and now Acting Director, Scott Sawyer, Council and ECDC Manager have worked relentlessly for the past two years. SFN is getting closer to breaking ground this summer. The Centre was identified as a SFN priority two years ago. SFN took the time it needed to do its due diligence since it is a big project. The new ECDC will be located in the downtown area between the Yukon College, Pelly Campus and SFN Administration building. An architect and a Project Manager will oversee the construction. Drawings will be presented to Council, the ECDC Manager and the Inspector of the Childcare Services Unit to ensure the building is in compliance.



This year's 2016/17 proceeds of the Capstone Infrastructure Dollars have been earmarked to construct this building.

Currently, ECDC is situated in a house and has been there for some time. Over the years, the house has been renovated to keep it up to standards. However, we have outgrown the Centre and a new building will better suit the needs of the children.

Once the old ECDC building is vacated, Council will convert it to be a Safe home. Providing an emergency Safe home in the community is also one of Council's priorities.

The children are excited and can't wait to explore their new territory.

Details of the ECDC will follow in the summer Newsletter.

## **Lands & Resources**

This summer, the Lands Department is planning to remove some beaver dams found on the Pelly River, other creeks and streams along the Pelly and Yukon rivers. This will give fish easier access to spawning beds.

Planning has started to support the SFN trappers fund with guidelines for the 2016-17 trapping season. For more information, contact the Land's Department. As of May 2nd, Jennifer Lee is Acting Director of the Lands and Resource Department.

## **Education**

The SFN Education Training Officer, Agnes McGinty, the Director of Education, Tara Roberts, the Education Committee and CYFN Education Department have developed a draft Trade Policy.

The Post Secondary Education Policy is available on our website. The deadline for applications are: March 15, May 15, November 15.

## Recreation Department

### TWO YOUTH WORKERS

We have two youth workers, Aaron McGinty and Shannon Morrison, who supervise evening activities and help coordinate community events. These two motivated individuals enjoy working with kids and offer choices for activities for our kids.

### EVENING ACTIVITIES

From January to March, evening activities at the Youth Center, School Gym and Hockey Arena facility remained the same from Monday to Friday. The schedule of activities varied and included: kids hockey practice, basic skating, kids hockey, adults hockey, senior hockey, arts and crafts, movie night, board games, volleyball, floor hockey, badminton, a variety of school gym games and exercise night for adults.

### SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### JANUARY TO MARCH

Special events play a big role in Pelly Crossing. They create an opportunity to get together. There is a place for everyone to either participate or watch. Either way, people enjoy themselves and socialize with one another creating a positive environment.

### FAMILY SLIDING PARTIES

The Recreation Department held 6 family sliding Parties from January to March. The sliding parties are always fun and exciting to watch. Parents, children and youth have a blast. The department provides sleds and meals for the community activity. This activity will continue next winter.



### JANUARY

The Selkirk Bears Hockey team traveled to Dawson to participate in annual hockey tournament. The tournament is always a fun and full of excitement and offers competitive hockey games. The Selkirk Bears placed 4th losing to Dawson in the semi-finals in a close battle.

### FEBRUARY

Alex Page hosted the Pelly Crossing Hockey Camp.

A hockey camp benefits our kids and youth. It helps the participants to develop new skills, meet people and create a healthy atmosphere based around active living. Alex Page has played professional hockey in Europe and has coached basic skating to kids and youth and has run hockey practices in Pelly Crossing for the last two years.

Alex is a good example and has built a good relationship with the kids and youth. He brings the best out of the kids.

The Pelly Crossing hockey camp was a success with 18 participants acquiring new skills and furthering their hockey knowledge.



### MARCH – WINTER MINI CARNIVAL

As always, the Winter Mini Carnival was successful creating a positive atmosphere in the community. Events were held during March break. They included: Pool, Crib, and Poker Tournaments with Saturday and Sunday hosting

# Department Updates

a range of competitive activities categorizing men and women events. Over 100 people came out for this event, to compete or just to watch.

## **TATL'A MÄN LAKE FAMILY FISHING 2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT**

The Recreation Department is trying new activities to get Selkirk Citizens out and practicing their traditional culture. The Department sponsored individuals to participate in the Tat'l'a Män lake event, which is located 52km of Pelly Crossing. Nineteen people participated in the fun filled weekend with the creator blessing the event with beautiful sunny weather.



## **YUKON NATIVE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

This year, over twenty SFN Citizens participated in the annual Native Hockey Tournament (NHT) in Whitehorse. The Recreation Department sponsored two teams and paid their registration fee. The participants included youth who were part of the Jamboree, "B" Division and "A" Division.

This year was big for Pelly Crossing with our hometown team, Selkirk Bears, winning Gold in "B" Division. This is the first time that Pelly Crossing has won Gold in the NHT. We should be proud of our warriors because they represented the community with all of their hearts!

A Big thank you to all of our sponsors: Pelly Construction, Minto Mine, Selkirk Development Corporation, Van Bibber Trucking, Dumas, Tintina

Air, Clear Point, Chief Kevin McGinty, Parkland, SFN Recreation Department and Health & Social Department.

Thank you sponsors, without your help the team could not have accomplished their goals of winning gold! Pelly Crossing your number one in B Division Hockey in the Native Hockey Tournament. Yes Finally we did it! We are proud of all who participated and would like to congratulate them.

All of the special community events will be announced to Pelly Crossing residents so please keep your eyes on the calendar. There is usually a special event every month.

The recreation Department is always looking for new ideas; please don't hesitate to communicate with Jeremy Harper, Aaron McGinty or Shannon Morrison.



**Above:** Selkirk Bears win Gold in "B" Division of NHT





This winter, Hets'edän Kú' was very active with a variety of computer courses, First Aid, beginner yoga for women, and our very own Fish and Wildlife Monitor Program! We continued to provide drop-in services for people, have our computer lab open to the public, and help people as they apply to other programs, in the Yukon and beyond!

We put on three weeks of computer classes for SFN staff. We ran courses in Microsoft Outlook, Excel and Word. It was very exciting to see so many SFN staff members so interested in professional development. They took what they learned back to their workplaces and are now more efficient and effective using their workstations for their positions.

Yukon Learn also brought us their two week Digital Skills for the Workplace program. This free program had eight participants, and took them through the very basics in how computers work, through to using Microsoft Word to create resumes and cover letters, and using the internet to search for and apply for jobs. They also learned how to set-up and use email services, and are much more

comfortable using computers. They received a \$15 refurbished laptop as a way to help them continue their learning beyond the end of the program.

Our instructor coordinator Charles Laanstra finished his Advanced Wilderness First Aid Instructor course, and began putting on First Aid courses here at the campus. We are now able to offer First Aid training more regularly and more flexibly. Keep an eye out for more First Aid courses coming up in the future!

We also ran our very own Fish and Wildlife Monitor Program, in partnership with SFN's Lands Department. This full-time, one month course gave future Fish and Wildlife Monitors training in HEED, Bear Aware, Wilderness First Aid, CFSC, regional biology, water testing, salmon regulations, note-taking, poach scene investigation, GPS use, and advanced knowledge about Chapter 16 of the final agreements and hunting and trapping regulations. We were very happy and proud to be a part of SFN's implementation of their final agreement, as they move towards implementing their own Conservation Office.

# RCMP Update

The RCMP meets Council bi-monthly to exchange ideas and identify areas of concerns and successes in Pelly Crossing. These meetings offer an opportunity to resolve issues, look for solutions and work together.

Corporal Boone, Constable Wright and other members of the RCMP detachments attended the Yukon First Nations Cultural Course in Whitehorse. This is a mandatory course for any RCMP Member stationed in the Yukon. The course provides important insight of Yukon First Nations' culture and gives context for some of the social issues in the communities.

Some of the RCMP Members have snared rabbits during their days off and offered them to some SFN elders.

Both Corporal Ken Boone and Constable Anderson attended Eliza VanBibber Assemblies to present students, with "Dooli Award."

## Recipients are

Ranon Sawyer, Damien Sims, Keyshawn Sawyer and Azalee Isaac Smith

Corporal Boone attended Lhut'saw Lake overnight Culture Camp for EVBS students. He participated in a story circle where Elder Lizzie Hall told stories of the past. The RCMP recognizes the importance of such camps and the positive effect they have on students. After his shift, Corporal Boone and his wife brought some campfire treats to share among the students, Elder Lizzie Hall as well as the teachers and coordinators of the camp. During this Culture Camp, Corporal Boone had the opportunity to speak to students about bullying and the importance of culture.

In March, Pelly Crossing RCMP, with the help of the RCMP Firearms Officers from Whitehorse and British Columbia, organised a Firearms Licence course (PAL). Twenty people with expired licences completed their renewal applications and 25 new applicants successfully completed the 1-day course.

Corporal Boone attended and organized the target-shooting event for the Community Winter Carnival. The event was popular and well supported with both male and female participants.



**"Dooli Award" Recipients:** Receiving their "Dooli Awards" are (left to right) Azalee Isaac Smith, Ranon Sawyer, Damien Sims, and Keyshawn Sawyer.

# Spring 2016

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