



Caring, Sharing, Respect, Teaching

*Self-governing since 1997. Home of the Northern Tutchone.*

# Selkirk First Nation



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# Hets Eday

## Telling Stories

**Photo:** the Chiefs of Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, and Minister Pauline Frost, officially signed off on the management plan for the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area. **Article page 17.**

## Chief's Message

Inye dó Húch'i (*how are you?*)

On behalf of Council, I bring greetings and hope this message finds you all well.

We are glad to provide Citizens with this newsletter which will give you updates on what the Council and Administration has been busy working on.

We have been in office for one year and it has been a pleasure to serve you and guide the direction of your government.

We have gotten to know each other as a Council; familiarised ourselves with our roles and responsibilities; built relationships with our Government partners; and engaged with stakeholders and industry.

Council felt it was important to focus on what it is we hope to accomplish during our term by developing a Strategic Priorities document— a written document that points the way forward.

Citizen input is important to us, so this Spring we engaged with citizens in Whitehorse and Pelly Crossing to help identify priority areas. The priorities identified focused on the land, the people and the community. (See page 6 for more information.)

This document will be used by all departments to develop their work plans and budgets.

In response to the need for community infrastructure and housing, we have started a few initiatives that will help us plan for the future. We are working on a 10-year Capital Plan, a Community Land Use Plan and a Housing Strategy. In addition, we have partnered with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to do an asset assessment on the condition of our



Government buildings and facilities. These important documents will help our government use its resources effectively while continuing to serve our citizens.

We heard from the Elders that our Northern Tutchone Language is at risk of being lost. We therefore supported the development of a 5-year Language Strategic Plan.

The Federal Government has committed to new Language funding that SFN is eligible for. This additional funding will help us document and revitalize our language. It is time to build programs that help us learn and maintain our language and culture. We thank the Elders and citizens who have come out to the Strategy sessions and provided their input to the Plan.

As Northern Tutchone people, we are the stewards of our land and we take this role seriously. We have stated clearly to industry that this is our Traditional Territory and if they want to do business here they must engage with us. We will hold them accountable for the environmental footprint they leave behind.

Citizens will continue to be involved in the development of these plans and projects. Together we are growing and moving forward to improve the quality of life for our citizens.

## Chief and Council



**Above:** Chief and Council at community Christmas dinner

The past two years have been very difficult for our community. We have witnessed tragedies that have affected each and every one of us. Council met with Elders to seek guidance on improving wellness and safety in our community.

Chief Doris Bill of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation was invited to come and speak about the steps they took to deal with the tragedies in their community and the programs they developed as a result. It was inspiring to see so many Elders, SFN employees and citizens attend this interesting presentation. Learning from each other and supporting each other makes us stronger and healthier.

We will continue to talk about wellness and safety with the community. The goal is to develop a Community Safety Plan that the whole community will stand behind and support.

It is imperative that we involve our Youth through this process and not lose sight of the challenges they are facing. We want to build a community that is safe for them and a place where they are proud to call home. This is what we are committed to working towards. As a start, Council has included in this year's budget programming on Youth Leadership and

Empowerment. We hope to develop a Youth Advisory panel as well.

Our community is strong and resilient and I am proud of Selkirk First Nation and all that we have accomplished. I remain optimistic that we can do anything we want if we just put our minds together and work together.

Mussi Cho  
On behalf of the whole Council  
Chief Sharon Nelson

## Deputy Chief

Council members will have the opportunity to act as Deputy Chief on a four month rotation. Since last April's election the following members have held the deputy Chief role:

Nesta Hager – from April to July 2017

George McGinty – from Sept. to Dec. 2017

Teddy Charlie – from January to April 2018

Milly Johnson – from May 2018 to Sept. 2018



**Left to right:** Chief George Morgan (Liard First Nation), Chief Russell Blackjack (Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation), Chief Bruce Charlie (Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation), Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Chief Kristina Kane (Ta'an Kwäch'än Council), Executive Director Michelle Parsons (Carcross/Tagish First Nation), Legal Counsel Jim Harper (Selkirk First Nation), Chief Sharon Nelson (Selkirk First Nation) and Member of Parliament Larry Bagnel.

## Council Highlights

Since the last newsletter, Council has continued to work on a variety of files. Here are some of the highlights of the past few months.

### Trudeau Visit

Yukon First Nations Chiefs met with Prime Minister Trudeau during his visit in September 2, 2017 to hear matters that are of importance to Yukon First Nations such as the environment, caribou, mining impacts, etc. Chief Nelson spoke about the need for Self-governing First Nations to have direct access to federal funding on a government to government basis.



**Above:** Prime Minister Trudeau speaking with Yukon First Nations.

### Resource Development

The Mining Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Yukon Government and Yukon First Nations is now in place; discussions concerning territory-

wide issues with placer and quartz mining, and the mining assessment and regulatory system are now underway. SFN is also part of a bilateral table with Yukon government to address any issues that pertain to our Traditional Territory. The Forum consists of Yukon Government and Yukon First Nation Leaders.

### Gateway Project

The Yukon Resource Gateway Project proposes upgrades of existing roads to two key areas of high mineral potential and active mining in Yukon. These areas include the Dawson Range and the Nahanni Range.

Selkirk First Nation and other affected Yukon First Nations have provided conditional support for the Yukon Resource Gateway Project to allow for completion of an agreement-in-principle with the federal government on the understanding that detailed Project Agreements will be completed prior to completion of final funding arrangements. The Yukon government has assured SFN that they will not proceed with any component of Gateway if there is no Project Agreements with First Nations.

## Casino Mine

The Casino deposit is located 74km west of Fort Selkirk and 16km south of the Yukon River. The proposed mine would extract copper and gold. The mine and associated claims are wholly within SFN Traditional Territory but not on settlement land. The proposed road (from Carmacks site) does directly impact some of SFN settlement land.

Chief and Council toured the proposed Casino mine site and met with President Paul West-Sells. He explained the project as we toured the site and gave a presentation on best practices, as they are looking at all the possibilities when it comes to managing the tailings pond.

Casino Mine submitted its Project Proposal for executive screening to the Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) in January 2014. Between January 2014 and February 2016, several rounds of review were completed by YESAB. In February 2016, YESAB decided to elevate the assessment to a Panel Review. The Panel Review is the highest level of review included in YESAA.



**Above:** Casino Mine site visit (Photo credit: George McGinty)

In general, Panel reviews would be conducted to assess projects that:

- Have potential significant adverse effects;
- Are likely to cause significant public concern;
- Involve the use of controversial technology; or
- Other levels of assessment have been unable to come to a recommendation.

There are many issues that have to be addressed before the mine can go ahead such as long term water quality, the open pit, the ability of Yukon government to regulate such a big project, etc.



**Above:** Visiting northern access route for the Goldcorp Coffee Creek project (Photo credit: Chief Nelson)

## GoldCorp Kaminak

This project is located partially in the Selkirk Traditional Territory and not on Settlement land. SFN is listed as an affected First Nation and was asked by YESAB to submit comments on the adequacy of the Goldcorp project proposal. SFN informed YESAB that we

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# Council Highlights

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were seeking more consultation and also had additional questions regarding the project. Council gave direction to have our team of technicians engage in the adequacy review of the project and they provided SFN with recommended documents to file with YESAB.

The Selkirk Development Corporation met with the heads of the project to discuss business and employment opportunities for Selkirk.

Selkirk and the company are currently engaged in discussions which will lead to a negotiated agreement. The details will be shared once both parties have reached an agreement.

Citizens are encouraged to come out to future information sessions.

## AME Cordilleran Round Up

Chief Nelson, Councillors George, Teddy and

Morris attended the 2018 AME Roundup. This event is an opportunity to connect with mineral exploration companies who are interested in doing business in the Yukon. It is a chance to meet key players in the mining industry and also to state SFN's positions when it comes to mining in our traditional territory.

## Faro Mine Update

The remediation of Faro Mine is a large and complex project and the development and implementation of a site clean-up will take many years. Two urgent work projects have been identified as needing immediate action in order to protect the health and safety of people and the environment. These projects include the North Fork of Rose Creek Realignment and the Down Valley Hydraulic Upgrades. Council received an update on the changes in management from YG to the Federal Government. Technical reviews of the project were requested by Council and that work is currently underway.

## Visioning and Identifying our Priorities

As a responsible government, it's important to identify our priorities and have a vision and share it with our citizens. The Council identified its priorities and will continue to work towards achieving its goals to better the lives of all Selkirk citizens.

### Selkirk First Nation's Strategic Priorities:

**People:** Healthy, self-reliant people; strong in their culture and language

**Land:** Protection of land for the future use of the trails, camps and cabin for cultural pursuits & harvesting

**Community:** A safe, unified community with opportunities to live a fulfilling and sustaining life

## Cannabis Legislation (Bill C-45)

Two bills dealing with the legalisation of Cannabis will soon become Canadian law. This will change the social and economic environment of our country.

The Assembly of First Nations passed a motion in September 2017 to create a National Working Group on Cannabis in order to ensure that First Nations in all regions are engagement-ready and in a good position to assert our rights, title and interests when the new cannabis legislation comes into effect. The proposed approach for the Working Group is to:

- Meet with various federal departments and agencies on the legislation, and
- Hold bi-lateral discussions so that First Nation input is heard at all levels.

Council attended a consultation session in Pelly Crossing held by the Yukon government. Elders were invited, as well as the RCMP.

The implementation of the Cannabis legislation has been postponed until later in the year.

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## Meetings with Ministers

### **Honourable John Streicker** **Minister of Community Services**

Minister Streicker visited Pelly Crossing and met with Council on a number of matters important to the community. He asked SFN to submit our list of infrastructure priorities for Pelly Crossing. The Yukon government is seeking federal dollars and wants to ensure the request reflects what communities need.

Other issues that were discussed included the sewage lagoon and the solid waste facility, the airstrip medevac capacity and fire services.

### **Honourable Pauline Frost** **Minister of Health and Social Services**

During Minister Frost's visit to Pelly Crossing, Council had a chance to discuss areas of ongoing concern regarding the Health Centre, the medevac service and developing on-the-

land treatment at Tatla Mun Lake. Council also stressed the importance of governments working together.

### **Honourable Ranj Pillai** **Minister of Economic Development and Energy, Mines and Resources**

On November 24, Minister Pillai met with Council to discuss a variety of topics such as the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area, Fort Selkirk buffer zone, Tatla Mun buffer zone, McGregor Creek and a joint approach to inspection and enforcement on SFN Traditional Territory.

During these discussions, Minister Pillai assured Council that the proposed Granite Canyon hydro-electric/water storage project site was no longer a consideration. We await a written confirmation from the Yukon Government.



Photo credit: Yukon Government

## Yukon Forum – Identifying Our Priorities

The goal of the Yukon Forum is to foster reconciliation, develop strong government-to-government relations and collaborate on priorities shared by the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations.

At the May 2017 Yukon Forum, Yukon government and Yukon First Nations leaders approved the Yukon Forum List of Joint Priorities Items document and moved forward on a Joint Five Year Action Plan.

On September 29, 2017 SFN with other Yukon First Nations leaders approved the Action Plan. This Action Plan lays out the next steps that will be undertaken by our joint working groups on a number of topics that are deeply important to Yukoners – fiscal relations, Land Claims and Self-Government implementation and bi-lateral/tri-lateral processes for engagement.

The joint priorities identified address long-standing and complex issues. In many cases, we are not starting from scratch – past reviews have been completed and existing processes are in place. The governments agreed on an Action Plan that outlines the high level next steps. Many of these Action Plan

items will require engagement and participation from Canada.

The priorities identified are:

- **Fiscal Relations** includes: Resource Revenue, Infrastructure Funding, Trilateral Fiscal Matters
- **Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements Implementation:** Chapter 22 (economic development), Implementing the Mining Memorandum of Understanding, Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act Reset (YESAA Re-set MOU), Ensure Government of Yukon budgets consider First Nations priorities, Directive/Policy that ensures a one-government approach to new policies/initiatives that consider links and implications to the Agreements, Chapter 11 (Land Use Planning).
- **Develop Bilateral and Trilateral Processes for Engagement:** Develop and formalise a joint bi-lateral process to allow for strategic, effective engagement on health and social services, education, justice, Heritage, etc. (excludes Administration of Justice Agreement discussions).



## Youth Video Launch

The youth of Selkirk First Nation in Pelly Crossing, Yukon created an original music video created “Best Of Me” . This is a support song that calls upon the importance of the traditional Dooli Laws; caring, sharing, teaching and respect for the land and daily life in the community.

The Selkirk First Nation & Liard First Nation have been invited to perform at this years Adäka Cultural Festival on July 3rd! If you are in the Whitehorse area, be sure to check out this incredible event!

## Meeting with AFN Regional Chief



**Above:** Interim Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Regional Chief, Kluane Adamek, visited Council to get input on how the AFN Regional Office can provide support to SFN on national files.

# Selkirk First Nation General Assembly

The Selkirk First Nation's General Assembly was held August 25 and 26, 2017. Judy Gingell chaired the Assembly.

- The Assembly provided Council with a mandate to enter into discussions and negotiations with Capstone in response to Capstone's proposal to explore and mine R6A (Category A Settlement Land) adjacent to their claim and report back to citizens by way of community information meetings or an Assembly before any agreement with Capstone is approved.
- A Mine Working Group was established by the Assembly with a mandate to work with Council to consider the exploration and possible development of the mineral potential at Minto Mine. The working group will consult and report back to citizens and Council.

The members of the Mine Working Group are:

- Kevin McGinty
  - Bill Trerice
  - Ellie Marcotte
  - Darin Isaac
- The Assembly appointed the following individuals as members of the Election Committee for a four-year term:
    - Bill Trerice
    - Donna Hager
  - The following individuals were appointed as alternate members of the Election Committee:
    - First alternate: Freda Alfred
    - Second alternate: Rhona Edwards
    - Third alternate: April Baker
    - Fourth alternate: Rebecca Roberts



**Above:** 2017 General Assembly in Pelly Crossing

# On-the-land Wellness



**Photos:** Selkirk First Nation offers many opportunities for citizens to participate in wellness programs.

SFN held a On-the-Land Wellness program at Tatla Mun which offered on the land cultural activities as well as counseling services.

# 20th Anniversary of our Self-Government and Final Agreements

**Photos:** On August 27, 2017, Selkirk First Nation celebrated the 20th anniversary of the signing of their Self-Government and Final Agreement. Citizens came to celebrate this important milestone.



## Community Dog Care Initiative

On January 31, 2018, the Community Dog Care Initiative came to Pelly Crossing to help the community identify local issues related to dogs and provide information about potential solutions.



## I'm Fur Real – Building a Yukon Fur Market

In collaboration with their partners, I'm Fur REAL presents quality events, features, profiles, workshops and information on the rich history and future legacy of Yukon wild fur and fur products. Their aim is to generate a new

market for Yukon wild fur and fur products by presenting the industry as relevant and accessible to people outside of the industry.

Check out their website <http://imfurreal.com>



## Residential School Plaque

A plaque was presented listing former student names to honour Selkirk Citizens who attended residential school. The plaque will be displayed in the community.

# Lateral Kindness Workshop

The Lateral Kindness Workshop held for Christmas project workers, Elders and SFN staff was very well received.

The workshop contained important information on self-care and how important it is to recharge, prevent burnout, and feel healthy. The workshop highlighted that it is the things we do to help ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually that help us through difficult times.

Here are a few common examples below on what might work for you.

### Examples of Self-Care:

- Go for a walk
- Do a smudge
- Read a good book
- Get out on the land
- Meditate
- Practice traditional arts like beading, carving, painting, dancing and singing
- Find a form of exercise you like (ex. running, basketball, canoeing)
- Talk to a trusted friend or family member
- Ask for help
- Seek counselling



**Above:** Facilitators Marilyn Jensen and Thomas Sheppard with Chief Nelson. **Below:** SFN staff participate at the lateral kindness workshop.



# Pembridge to Purchase Minto Mine

Capstone Mining Corp. are finalizing the sale of the Minto Mine to Pembridge Resources. Pembridge CEO and President met with Council in May to begin relationship building

talks. The company plans to do extensive drilling in the first year and will focus more on underground mining. The company is finalizing their financing.

# Yukon Quest

Residents of Pelly Crossing again, this year, supported the Yukon Quest.



# Johnson's Dog Blanket Story

In 2014, a group of Northern Tutchone Heritage Workers and Elders went to Ottawa to identify artefacts at the Museum of History.

To our surprise, we identified many artefacts that belonged to the people of Selkirk First Nation. We were very pleased to identify a specific piece of art in which the description card presented "Found in an abandoned cabin on the MacMillan River." These dog blankets belonged to someone in our community. The Elders who were with us identified the beading on the blankets as Mackenzie River people from the NWT and had one of the Heritage Workers Gina take photographs on her cell phone to send back home to her mother. To

her surprise, Gina's grandmother had sewn the dog blankets. They had been a gift to Johnson and his wife Victoria Edwards. Johnson heard the news and asked for his blankets back.

It has taken almost 3 years to work on the process of repatriating Johnson's dog blankets, which are now housed at the Big Jonathan House Heritage Center. They're on display so that we can share the story with our Center's visitors.

Mussi Cho to the staff of the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa for helping us through this process and the Heritage staff and Elders for all of their hard work.



**Above left:** Johnson Edwards. **Above right:** Johnson's Dog Blanket



**Above:** Selkirk Spirit Dancers perform during Ddhaw Ghro signing.

## Signing of Ddhaw Ghro Management Plan

The Chiefs of Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, and Minister Pauline Frost, officially signed off on the management plan for the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area.

The First Nation and territorial governments are pleased to announce the formal establishment and legal protection of the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area for present and future generations.

This environmentally and culturally rich area is located between the Pelly and Stewart Rivers and is important to the Northern Tutchone people. The management plan recommends continued cultural use, fish and wildlife conservation uses, no commercial activity and no off-road vehicles use in the area.

Establishing joint management plans for areas like Ddhaw Ghro is important work that brings First Nation Final Agreements to life and fosters reconciliation.

## Capital Department Update

The Capital Department continues to maintain SFN houses such as renovating SFN houses, upgrading septic tanks, installing fuel tanks as well as assisting residents whenever possible. They continuously respond to residents calls for assistance.

The Capital Department is also responsible for the maintenance and repairs, bookings, and its janitorial services of public buildings and fleet vehicles.

The water crew completed the fall winterizing of the baseball field, school field, campground, and Minto resorts. They started to do some residential tank cleaning later in the Fall and will continue through the coming Spring.

Last Fall, the Capital Department hosted a Housing Fair - Trade Show in Pelly Crossing. A number of exhibitors participated such as Yukon Housing, Stantec, Energy Solutions, Yukon Government, Yukon Energy, etc. The Housing Fair presented an opportunity to engage citizens for their input on a Housing Policy-Strategy and also provide information on different systems found in houses.

The event was very successful and Capital will hold another Housing Fair soon.

Capital is continuing home inspections which includes woodstove, furnace and pipe inspections with Midnight Sun Sheet Metal. There will be more air quality, mould and radon testing as well.



**Above photos:** Stantec engaging youth at the EVBS on the planning process.

## Department Updates

Capital, with Stantec Engineering, is developing a 10-year capital plan, a housing strategy and a land use plan for Pelly Crossing. Citizens have been and will continue to be consulted on these important initiatives.

Please remember that Capital's door is always open if you would like to stop by for a visit, or express any concerns that you may have.

**Residents that have outdoor watersheds, please do not use them as an outdoor smoking and storage shed. You could contaminate your water in your water holding tank. Please have someone check your home when you leave for an extended period of time.**

### Playground Equipment

The new Playground Equipment, funded by Yukon Government's Community Development Fund, was purchased and installed last Fall. It is beside the baseball field across from the Link Building. A community BBQ will mark the grand opening of the new playground. Please watch for postings!



### Ella Harper's House

Ella Harper's house was under construction with major renovations inside and outside of the house. The person standing to the left is Dale Joe, the middle person is Lazereth Simon and the person to the right is Kyle Fairclough.



# Citizen Development Overview

The Citizen Development Department ensures students and youth learn about and make healthy life choices, while also being immersed in activities and outings that promote Selkirk First Nation language and culture.

We manage the afterschool education and recreational programs and services for Kindergarten to Grade 12 by engaging with the federal and territorial education departments, working with other Selkirk First Nation departments, liaising with Eliza Van Bibber (EVB) staff, advocating for students and parents/guardians. Selkirk First Nation Cultural Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC) plays an important role in improving the educational and personal well-being of Eliza Van Bibber students.

Citizen Development Department has three main focuses:

- SFN Citizen Development
- School education from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and
- Post-secondary education and training for citizens.

### School Supplies Assistance

Selkirk First Nation citizens in grades K5 – 12 and are registered at a public school outside of our Traditional Territory but within Yukon are eligible for this funding. Please contact the Citizen Development Department for an application form and submit your request to the Citizen Development Department by September 15, 2018.

Please note that this year we will begin processing all applications on August 1, 2018.

*The funding amounts are as follows:*

- Elementary School students in the Yukon (Kindergarten to Grade 9) - \$50 per year.
- High School students in the Yukon (Grade 10-12) - \$65 per year.

Students must be registered SFN citizens to qualify for assistance.

If your child is not yet a registered as a SFN citizen, please contact the Enrolment Officer at 867-537-3331 ext. 211

### Education – High School Students Community Education Liaison Coordinators (CELC)

The CELC works with students, parents/guardians and the school staff to achieve student success. The CELC collaborates with SFN and EVB with the coordination of cultural activities, provide information on upcoming opportunities, provides information on the Native Graduation Ceremony and organizes Elder visits to incorporate culture into students' education and promote more ways of learning.

The CELC also provides support to students transitioning into high school and to graduating students.

## Education – Post-Secondary Students Post-Secondary Education Preparation

Graduation and applying for post-secondary education can be difficult and confusing at times. The Citizen Development Department and/or Guidance Counsellor at EVB can assist with career counselling. This service helps students choose their career-education path. We can also provide information about different post-secondary options, help with applications, and help you make a plan to achieve your goals.

### Post-Secondary Education Program

Selkirk First Nation citizens interested in pursuing Post-Secondary studies may be eligible to apply for funding under this program. The program provides financial support and case management to eligible post-secondary students and is subject to the availability of funds.

*Application deadlines for funding under the SFN Post-Secondary Education Program are as follows:*

Fall Semester	July 15
Winter Semester	Nov. 15
Spring/Summer Semester	March 15

*If the 15th falls on a weekend, the application deadline will be extended to the end of the next business day.*

Late applications will be deferred until the next intake if applicable.

Make sure to check other Post-Secondary Funding Sources such as the Yukon Grant and Canada student Grants and loans.

## Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) - Training Program

The ASETS program provides funding to Aboriginal peoples to access training for skills and certifications that are critical for securing certain types of employment. It can be used to assist citizens in accessing funding for work gear, training sponsorship.

*The objectives of ASETS Funding:*

- To improve the employability for entry or re-entry into the labour market.

For further information, please contact Nest Hager, Employment and Training Officer, at (867) 537-3331.

## What's NEW in Citizen Development!

### Computer Access

Computers are available at the SFN Administration office to SFN citizens during regular work office hours. Citizens can use these computers for research, resumes, and job search.

### ECDC Staff Professional Development

As the Manager of the ECD Center, I'm pleased to announce the news that all ECDC staff are back in class.

Their position as Early Childcare Educators requires a level 3 in the Early Childhood Development program through Yukon College.

I worked closely with the Mayo Campus in Aug/Sept of last year to get this program planned, organized and approved to be offered in Pelly

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## Department Updates

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and Mayo. This includes an instructor on sight. This planning came with a small challenge, funding. Luckily in partnership, we managed to secure the funds in Sept. Big thanks to the following Funders; SFN, NND and the Yukon College Campus.

The staff all passed their first class in the Fall semester, Health, Nutrition and Safety. All staff now have their level 1. Way to go staff!

There are 5 levels of certification. A completed certificate in Early Childhood Education or Early Childhood Development may be equivalent to a Child Care Worker Level 2. A diploma may be equivalent to a Child Care worker level 3.

Staff completed their second course, Child Growth and Development 1 in March 2018. Two days a week the Pelly and Mayo connected through Fuze as the Instructor rotated between Pelly and Mayo. As added supports to the staff, both Managers, myself and the Mayo daycare manager joined the classes as well.

The feedback from the staff has been nothing but positive. Having an instructor on sight, managers as student supporters and the campus having an evening support person has made the program successful.

Studies covered this semester include; Child development theories, research, genetics bases, prenatal development and birth, physical development in infants and toddlers.

Once the winter semester is completed in March, staff will then enroll into the 2018 Fall program.

The staff have shown they've each gained additional skills, age appropriate skills, that they will implement into the daily programming.



**Above:** Early Childhood Development Centre staff from left to right: Tannis, Jacy, Lori and Maryann

## Recreation

The Recreation unit coordinates events within and outside Pelly Crossing in order to keep our citizens as active and involved as possible. In the past few months, we've accomplished many events such as:

- The Christmas BINGO – recreation coordinated as well as supplied all the gifts for a successful game. This year, the Eliza Van Bibber Graduates ran the canteen to

raise funds for their 2018 Graduation.

- November 2017, Youth Fun Field Trip - for youth between the ages of 13-19. This trip gave the youth of Pelly Crossing the opportunity to enjoy a weekend in Whitehorse where they went bowling, saw a movie, and finished the weekend at the Takhini Hot Springs.

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**Photos:** SFN partnered with the Council of Yukon First Nations to have the 2018 NHL Indigenous Alumni Tour come to Pelly Crossing. Several former NHL hockey players visited Pelly Crossing with CYFN Grand Chief, Peter Johnston. The NHL Indigenous Alumni lineup includes John Chabot, Reggie Leach, Arron Asham, Jason Simon, Jean-Sébastien Aubin, Eric Nattress, Jamie Leach and Laurie Boschman.



## Department updates

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- December 2017, Youth Field Trip - for youth between the ages 9-12. Kids spent the weekend in Whitehorse. They went to see a movie, had a pizza party, and finished the day off with a swim at the Canada Games Center.
- January 2018, Youth Ski Trip in Whitehorse - for Youth between the ages of 12 to 18. The youth enjoyed an afternoon at Mount Sima where all equipment and passes were covered.
- February 2018, Youth field trip - for youth between the ages 8-11. The kids enjoyed another trip to Whitehorse as they went to see a movie, went bowling, had a dip in the Takhini Hot Springs and finished the weekend off with a pizza party.

The Recreation Department also hosts daily activities for members of all ages at the Youth Center and Arena. Please see the monthly schedule that is applicable to your age group.

Recently the Recreation unit purchased new equipment for the Youth Center and Arena. The new equipment includes a new P54 and games, speakers, foosball table, air hockey table, mini stoves, crafts, baking supplies, and a new score board.

As well as coordinating, we also donate funds towards community events such as the New Year's Dance, Ski-doo Poker Rally, Hand Games Tournament, and the New Year's firework show. We also helped Santa by supplying all the gifts for the 2017 Eliza Van Bibber Christmas Concert.

We look forward to seeing you all at our future events. Watch for posting.

Recreation Coordinator, Jeremy Harper  
Recreation Assistant, Danielle Marcotte  
Youth Worker, Daylen Alfred



**Above:** Selkirk Youth receiving skills coaching from NHL Alumni tour. **Below:** Chief nail pounding contest at the winter carnival.



## Employment Skills Project

### Moving towards self-reliance

The Project stems from the Strategic Goals set by Selkirk First Nation Council and Citizens. Building Healthy, Self-reliant people. A safe, unified Community with opportunities to live a fulfilling and sustaining life.

The Objective of the Employment Skills Project is not only to provide the citizens with training and employment opportunities, but to allow them to give back to the Community, to have a sense of pride in the work they have contributed towards building a healthy unified safe community.

Selkirk First Nation has built a team that consists of a Project Manager Mentor, a

Project Manager, and 3 Supervisors, to set a clear plan to ensure that citizens fully benefit from the project opportunities. The project will employ up to 40 SFN citizens. The project began on May 14, 2018.

The project has 3 parts;

1. *Beautification Project*, the team will be responsible for community safety projects and community beautification.
2. *Greenhouse/Gardening Project*, the team will be responsible for gardening and food security. This project is to develop community based agricultural skills that support the development of sustainable community based, food growing capacity.

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3. *On the Land Project*, the team will be responsible for taking care of the land, provide delivery of on the land monitoring programs, increasing traditional use and harvesting skills.

## Funding and partnerships

Selkirk First Nation continues to secure additional funding in hopes the Project is a success and will continue. The Project Manager and Supervisors will work in collaboration with SFN Departments to maximize resources for a successful implementation of the Employment and Training Project.

## Empowering people

“It is critical to support our citizens in striving for self-reliance. As a Self-Governing First Nation for 20 years, we have listened to our citizens, we understand the needs, and the direction is clear. Building a strong unified healthy and safe community is the direction to take, this will also ensure the foundation is in place for future generations. Empowering people by building capacity through training and employment opportunities for the citizens is our priority. Mussi Cho to those who have taken the first step in applying for the available positions. Let’s work as a team and make this project a success” Chief Sharon Nelson.



## Health and Social Department

### Wellness Activities

The Wellness team continues to offer a variety of activities that encourages families, parents, children and Elders to lead a healthy lifestyle. From

baking to knitting/sewing and crocheting and healing activities, the Health and Social Department offers essential programming for citizens.

## Lands, Heritage and Resources Department

There are new faces at the Lands, Heritage and resource Department. Ellie Marcotte is the Director Trainee and Kevin McGinty is the Mine Manager.

The Department will be holding an auction in mid-June, selling various items from the warehouse such as skidoos, quads, tires, etc. Stay tuned for the date.

### Lands

The Lands branch is gearing up for spring and summer. May Gathering was held on May 22 to 24, 2018.

The Department received funding to clean up old vehicles and garbage that is on SFN's traditional Territory within a 60 kilometre of Pelly Crossing. This includes Minto as well.

The Salmon sonar will again be in the Pelly River this year. This important project provides important information on the Chinook Salmon in the Pelly River. Stay tuned for salmon numbers this summer.

This year, the department conducted a Land Use Study of the western part of SFN's Traditional Territory. Over 30 citizens were interviewed and gave information on their and their family's use of our Traditional Territory. The department created an all features map which demonstrates every interviewees' input and also the extensive use of our land.

On April 12, interviewees were presented with their personal map reflecting the information they had given during their interviews.

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# Department Updates

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## Resources

### McGregor Creek

Yukon Government is working with SFN and LSCFN on a clean-up plan for McGregor Creek. Dean Gill represents SFN and Fred Green represents LSCFN. There may be some training opportunities with this project and some business opportunities. Work on the project will start in the spring. The working group will soon be developing an operational plan.

## Heritage

### Fall Culture Camp

In September 2017, the EVBS school students, community and citizens participated in the Annual Culture Camp at Minto Landing. Well attended, this camp helps students learn about our traditional way of living.

This year, with the guidance of our Elders, the high school students were in charge of cutting



**Above:** Brendon Kneller teaches students from EVBS



**Above:** EVBS students

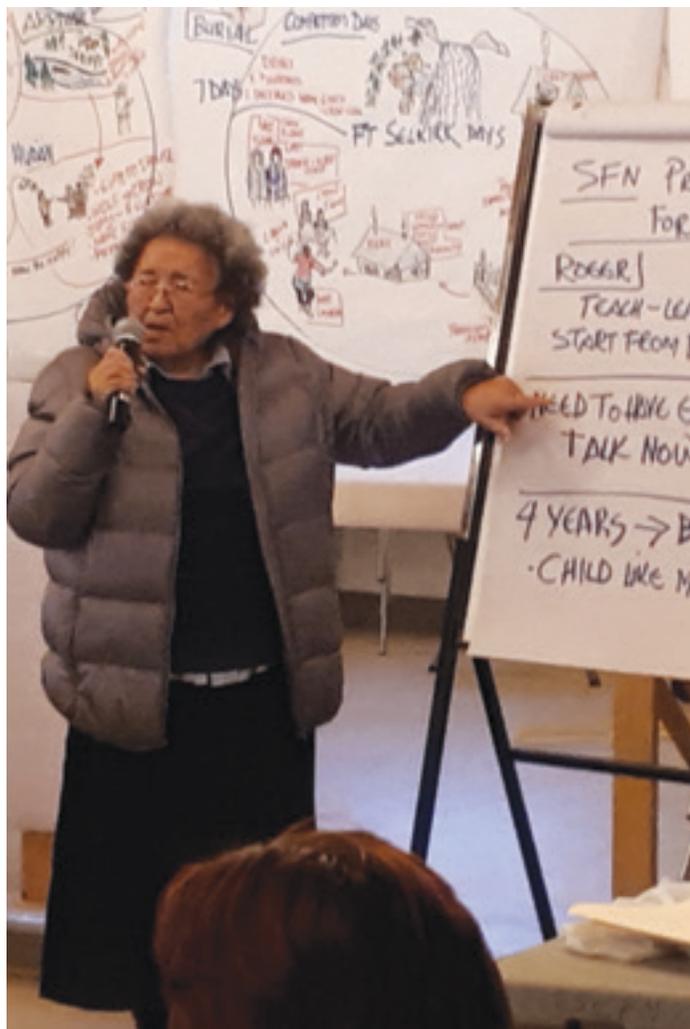
all the moose meat and fish. It was a proud moment to see them take on the initiative and do all the work from beginning to end. There was a traditional cache set up, where the community could see the meat hanging, and how to smoke the meat. Thank you so much to our Moose Monitors for harvesting a moose for our camp, Elder Franklin Roberts and Andy Silverfox.

There were several stations set up, Language and Doòli lessons with Betty and Danny Joe. Betty had her homemade traditional camp set up and the children absolutely loved it, we couldn't get the kids away from it, playing and learning in the language. We also had brush camp station where the kids learned how to get branches, carry and construct a camp. They all loved it, they couldn't believe how warm it was, they didn't want to come out, not even to eat lunch.

The overall focus of the camp is Doòli, our Traditional values and ways. The students were awarded with gifts for good behaviour and respect, our Cultural Recognition initiative. Students behave very well at our traditional gatherings and have been known by our fellow Northern Tutchone First Nations, as being very respectful and knowing their traditional ways.

## Doòli Team Meetings and Annual Northern Tutchone Elders Gathering

The Selkirk Doòli team includes, Roger Alfred, Teri-Lee Isaac, Gina Gill, Emma Alfred, Rachel TomTom and Lizzie Hall. The team meets regularly to ensure we accomplish the work that the Elders have asked us to do. We are currently working on books and manuals, the Noho'e Potlach Manual (for families and Coordinators), Growing up with Doòli, What is Doòli?, Family Tree, and our Traditional Code of Conduct. We updated and received advice and knowledge at the Annual Northern Tutchone Elders Gathering in November 2017.



**Above:** Elder Lizzie Hall

## Sewing and Language Projects in Pelly and Whitehorse

The language and culture program provided funds for these projects to be completed. The women and youth gathered for two weeks to sew various amazing items and book covers for our First Nation along with language lessons.

## 5 Year Language Strategic Plan

The Heritage staff are developing a 5 year Language Strategic Plan. In January 2018, citizens were informed and consulted on the approach of the strategy. This included updates of work done to date, research on best practices and barriers, and strategic goals. Priorities were also identified for upcoming Language projects and resources. SFN is now offering weekly community/staff language lessons. People gather and learn Northern Tutchone together. SFN has also started the Youth Mentor Program where youth learn to type Northern Tutchone and produce videos on various themes that include Doòli, traditions, SFN values and beliefs.

The Language Strategic Plan will include several Language initiatives such as language training, street names/name buildings, Traditional maps, storytelling, immersion camps, home toolkits, recordings, transcribing, traditional plants and a Language App.

As we make progress on the Language Strategic Plan, the Heritage Branch will continue to engage citizens both in Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse to inform and get feedback.

Together we are developing concrete and efficient Language and Culture Programming to revitalise our traditional ways and regaining our Selkirk First Nation identity.

## May Gathering

May Gathering was established through an Elder's Resolution at the 2000 General Assembly as a traditional way to implement the First Nation's obligation for annual harvesting reporting under the Final and Self-Government Agreements.

The annual May Gathering is an important part of the self-governing process, based on the principles of respect, caring, sharing and teaching. The May Gathering incorporates

Traditional Knowledge and provides guidance to the Selkirk First Nation for the ongoing management of their land. The May Gathering promotes awareness and responsibility as well as the stewardship role of First Nations and others. Elders from the three Northern Tutchone First Nations, staff, and interested citizens meet to discuss the status of fish, wildlife and the land. The May Gathering is also a time to visit and enjoy traditional foods and entertainment.



# Department updates



May Gathering also has demonstrations of traditional on-the-land skills and workshops.



## Committee Updates

### Finance Committee

Under Section 10.10.1 of the Selkirk First Nation Constitution, the SFN Finance Committee was established to assist with the financial accountability and best use of resources of Selkirk First Nation. Committee members help organize this important work with support from SFN staff and advisors.

The Committee is guided by Terms of Reference, which were adopted by SFN's General Assemblies in 2008 and 2009 and were recently updated and approved by Council. The mandate of the Committee is to have transparency on the financial management of the Selkirk First Nation and to work with, and provide guidance to, the Director of Finance and staff.

The Finance Committee members are Lori Sims, Diana Dawson, Lois Joe, Zach Fulton and Albert Drapeau.

The Finance Committee has had a busy 6 months with 22 meetings from July 2017 to February 2018.

The Finance Committee has been working on 26 Finance Policies and are happy to report that 5 are ready for final approval and implementation.

#### **They are;**

1. Policy, Procedures and Directions Policy,
2. Budgets and Planning Policy,
3. Records and Information Management Policy,
4. Delegated and Assigned Responsibilities Policy, and
5. Honoraria and Event Support Policy.

#### **The next SFN Finance Policies will be:**

1. Financial and Operational Reporting Policy,
2. Audit Policy,

3. Financial Institution Account Policy,
4. Debt Obligation Policy, and
5. Expenditures Policy.

The Committee continues to work on the outstanding policies and hopes to have them completed in the next few months.

The Finance Committee participated in the mid year review of budgets with the Finance Department and participated in the budgeting exercise for the government's 2018-2019 budget.

The Committee monitors the Capstone Shares regularly and if there are any significant changes, the Council is advised.

The Committee is researching Elder Benefits.

The Finance Committee is looking forward to a busy year and hopes to continue working on it's mandated priorities.

### Constitution Committee

Under Section 10.10.1 of the Selkirk First Nation Constitution, the Constitution Committee is established to help shape and recommend legislation to better govern Selkirk First Nation.

The Committee members are Lori Sims, Diana Dawson, Dorothy Mitander-Graham, Lizzie Hall and Candice Menzi.

The Committee has drafted a framework for a Selkirk First Nation Governance Act and is researching a constitutional review process and a referendum code. The Committee reviewed the Selkirk First Nation Registry of Laws and is developing a Registry of Policies and researching a training manual for new Election Committee members.

# Community Wellness & Safety Planning

On April 11, 2018 Selkirk First Nation Council and the Elder Council and staff hosted a meeting with Chief Doris Bill, Kwanlin Dun First Nation, Justice Director, Gina Nagano, Community Safety Officer Ray Ryder and Executive Assistant Eileen Vance Duchene. The purpose of the visit was for Chief Bill and her team to share best practices and lessons learned from developing a Community Safety Plan. The plan was developed with the support of Elders and Citizens to address safety concerns as a result of a number of fatalities and the rise in criminal activity and violence in their community. Kwanlin Dün is now in year (3) of their Community Safety Plan and has achieved success in decreasing criminal activity and building community pride. A number of Wellness, Health, and Justice Programs have also been implemented. We

wish to thank Chief Doris Bill and her team for sharing their story which included “successful practices” to re-establish safety and wellness in their community.

There are a number of Community Safety “Best Practices” that Selkirk First Nation Council and Elders will continue to work on over the next year. This work will be supported by a team of qualified individuals who will be hired to work with Council, Elders and our citizens to develop the plan. Once the plan is developed with full support from the community, we will then seek long term funding to implement wellness, safety and justice programs. Consultations with our citizens will take place this summer and Fall.

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**Above:** Chief and Council, Chief Bill from Kwanlin Dun First Nation and some of her staff, and SFN Elders.

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## Community Initiatives - Community Safety "Best Practices"

1. Let's Keep Talking – engage citizens to develop a long-term Community Safety/Wellness Plan.
2. Address bootlegging, drug dealing and Violence.
3. Establish "safety" and support services for families in crisis.
4. Clean up the community, (remove the garbage, clear old structures, old vehicles, fire smart and clear community walking trails, install street lights,) to provide a safe place for citizens.
5. Develop programs and services which support wellness, health and justice for our citizens.
6. Establish a Justice Council.
7. Increase counselling and mental health services for citizens.
8. Keep track of statistics dealing with crime.
9. Keep track of programs and service delivery for all Citizens.
10. Engage our Youth - develop a Youth Advisory Council.

This initiative will require the support of all citizens and difficult decisions will need to be made. It is time to re-build a safe community for our children of today and tomorrow. Let's Keep Talking Chief Sharon Nelson & Council.

Let's Keep Talking!

Chief Sharon Nelson & Council



**Above:** Elder Danny Joe and Councillor Teddy Charlie. **Below:** SFN Elders and staff.



# Yukon Native Language Center (YNLC)

The Yukon Native Language Centre is a training and research facility, which provides a range of linguistic and educational services to Yukon First Nations and to the general public.

It is located in the Commons wing of Yukon College, Ayamdigut Campus, Whitehorse. The Council of Yukon First Nations is administers the Center with funds provided by the Government of Yukon.

The mandate of the Centre is under review. For the past 40 years, it has been administered by Yukon Government and provided assistance to the Yukon First Nations teachers. With the review, a few changes are being proposed. The Center will be providing assistance to the First Nation Government Language Programs as well as to Language Programming and Resources.

## Language Planning with YNLC

Some SFN citizens attended a Language Planning session in Whitehorse with the Yukon Native Language Center on how to produce a Language Plan for our First Nation. This was delivered in partnership with the First Peoples Cultural Council for British Columbia. It has been proven that language and culture go hand in hand, and we cannot do one without the other.

## The Northern Native Broadcasting Yukon

(NNBY) airs Hashagoon every week featuring lessons in the language and stories. NNBY has offered their recording studio to Elders who are interested in being recorded and get their stories or lessons aired. Please contact the Heritage Department and we will set it up for you.

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## Language Lessons

\_\_\_\_\_ uzhi

► My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Inté \_\_\_\_\_ uzhi

► My father's name is \_\_\_\_\_

lhné \_\_\_\_\_ uzhi

► My mother's name is \_\_\_\_\_

lhstun \_\_\_\_\_ uzhi

► My grandma's name is \_\_\_\_\_

lhsti \_\_\_\_\_ uzhi

► My grandpa's name is \_\_\_\_\_

Egande/Hânjet echî

► I come from the wolf/crow clan

Dân Ki \_\_\_\_\_ uzhi

► My indian name is \_\_\_\_\_

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## Yukon Native Language Center Working Group

The YNLC has been developing new language and culture curriculum for Yukon Government Schools and First Nation Governments. Initially, this will include proficiency benchmarks and performance indicators on oral acquisition, speaking, comprehension and understanding. Proficiency in reading and writing will be a later focus. A language fluency scale of different ability levels is being developed. This is a very large task and will probably take some time to complete.

## National Language Legislation

In December 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the federal government would be developing legislation to support the revitalization Indigenous languages in Canada. In his announcement, he stated that, “our government will enact an Indigenous Languages Act, co-developed with Indigenous Peoples, with the goal of ensuring the preservation, protection, and revitalization of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit languages in this country.”

The process will give all Yukon First Nations the opportunity to voice how we would like this legislation to look.



**Above:** Northern Tutchone language lessons.

# Yukon Heritage Training Fund Reporting

Daniel Alfred and James Mooney

In the fall of 2017, Daniel Alfred applied for and received funding from the Yukon Heritage Resources Training Fund, to complete heritage resource management training with Ecofor



Consulting Ltd., in Whitehorse. The funding assisted with his travel, accommodations, and meal costs while going back and forth to the Ecofor's Whitehorse office and laboratory for about one week a month from November 2017 to February 2018.

In the past Daniel worked in the field with Ecofor doing Heritage Resource Impact Assessments (HRIAs) since 2013 for proposed development projects but he had not had the chance to work in the office and lab. This office and lab training included two main parts: the first was following-up on the 2017 archaeology projects artifacts and reporting, and the second was working with the Searching For Our Heritage (SFOH) Database ([www.searchingforourheritage.ca](http://www.searchingforourheritage.ca)) updates.

The office and lab work included proper care and handling of artifacts; washing, labelling, classification and analysis of artifacts; building artifact catalogues in Excel; classification of artifacts as per Chenhall nomenclature; artifact photography; preparing artifacts for long-term curation; Yukon archaeological site form completion; building shovel test location tables and map request tables in Excel; and photo-document preparation and interim report preparation in MSWord.

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**Left:** Daniel Alfred taking photographs of artifacts at Ecofor Whitehorse office. *Photo credit: Ecofor Consulting*



**Above:** Beaver foot purse made by Jessie Alfred. *Photo courtesy of the Canadian Museum of History [Vl-Q-47]*

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The SFOH Database work included online research of museums looking for things more than 45 years old, in their collections that were made by Yukon First Nation peoples, which have left the Yukon. As the items were found, information and pictures of them was collected and sent to the Heritage Branch of the Yukon Government to review, then the information and pictures were added to the Database. Earlier entries in the Database were also reviewed and many of the pictures of artifacts were resized to a smaller format to help reduce the overall size of the Database. The SFOH database was started after the Final Land Claims agreement to track Yukon First Nation made items that have left the Yukon.

After our updating efforts in 2017/2018 the Database currently has approximately 4,4420 items from 94 Institutions around the world. The Database includes a wide variety of items such as tools, clothing, carvings, baskets, and toys. These include some made by Selkirk First Nation citizens, such as a beaded doll (at the Glenbow Museum) and a beaver foot purse (at the Canadian Museum of History) made by Daniel's grandmother, Jessica (Jessie) Alfred.

A Power Point Slide Show presentation and discussion of Daniel's Heritage Training and the updating of the Searching for Our Heritage Database will be made in Pelly Crossing in the spring of 2018, time and place to be announced by the Selkirk First Nation Communications Officer.

# Yukon Government Budget

On March 1, 2018 the Legislative Assembly started their Spring session and the government presented its budget. The \$1.47 billion budget includes no new taxes, and a capital budget this year of about \$280 million, a little more than what was spent last year on new infrastructure in the territory.

Some of the big projects outlined this year include:

- \$42 million in municipal and First Nation infrastructure
- \$65 million in transportation infrastructure, including road work, bridge replacement and repair, and redesigning the Dawson City airport runway
- \$39.7 million for housing and new building lots, including \$6 million for affordable housing and \$15 million on new Whistle Bend subdivision lots
- \$18.7 million for the Whistle Bend continuing care facility
- \$6.8 million for a new track and field facility at F.H. Collins school
- \$3 million for a new French language high school in Whitehorse
- \$1.2 million for the Old Crow multiplex



## College Corner Hets'edän Kú' News

### **New Community Adult Education Coordinator**

The new Community Adult Education Coordinator (CAEC) in Pelly Crossing at Hets'edan Ku has been hired and has arrived in the community. The new coordinator is Michelle Koehl previously from our Watson Lake College Campus. Michelle has spent most of her life in the Watson Lake area and recently spent time in southern BC but the Yukon is where her heart is. As Michelle states, "I Love what the Yukon has to offer." Michelle loves camping, fishing, just being in the outdoors jogging and quilting. .Michelle has two adult sons and three grandchildren which live here in the Yukon. Michelle is looking forward to the position in Pelly Crossing and working closely with the Selkirk First Nation and community.

### **Open House**

The college campus will be holding an open house in the near future so watch for posters around the community. The Campus is looking forward to receiving input into what courses, workshops and programs are needed and wanted in the community.

### **Summer Hours**

The college will be open most of the summer so the computer lab will be open.

The campus will be closed Monday, May 14, 2018 to Friday, May 18, 2018 so the staff can attend meetings and training in Whitehorse.

Our hours starting Tuesday, May 22, 2018 will be: Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm we will be open during the lunch hours. Depending on courses the college may extend or change their hours from time to time.



## SELKIRK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chief and Council meet with SDC quarterly to get an update and discuss projects and investments. SDC's mandate is to grow revenue. SDC shared a draft Strategic Plan with Council. SDC and Council discussed matters such as positioning the Corporation for when Minto Mine is no longer in operation, future plans for Minto Resorts, community economic development, and the mining industry.



**Above:** Bob Hathaway, SDC Business Advisor and Chief Nelson

## New CEO at Selkirk Development Corp

**Zachary Fulton**, a Selkirk Citizen, is the new Chief Executive Officer for Selkirk Development Corporation. Mr. Fulton assumed his duties on April 9, 2018.



**Above:** Council and SDC Board of Directors meeting.

## Selkirk Centre Makes Improvements

Selkirk Development Corporation makes improvements at the Selkirk Centre. They added new card lock pumps, upgraded the holding tank and added another tank for premium gas.



## Doòlí Awards

**William Blackjack** (*bottom left*) received the award for demonstrating “Caring” and “Respect” under Doòlí Law through his growth in independence as well as being a leader in the classroom.

**Aaron Pielak-Edwards** (*bottom right*) received his Doòlí Award for demonstrating the Doòlí

Teachings of “Caring” and “Respect” as he shows respect towards the classroom and it’s supplies and materials. He is always polite and positive towards others. He shows “Caring” by always being concerned about the other students and how they are feeling and likes to make sure everyone is O.K.



## Announcements

### Happy Birthday!

To my sweet grandson, Love you forever.  
Happy Birthday Big Boy! Love Grandma Emma  
and Uncle Daniel

To **Keenan** Happy Birthday Big Big Boy! Love you!  
From Grandma Emma and Uncle Daniel

Happy Birthday **Valerie Silas** and many more to  
come - Love Mom

Happy Birthday Mom (**Valerie**) Lots of love from  
your daughters – Kaydence and Harley

### Congratulations

**Jerry** and **Brenda** on your marriage!



### Eugene Alfred Artwork

Eugene Alfred explained his beautiful artwork  
to the Yukon River Panel in Whitehorse at the  
KDCC.

The panel features two salmon swimming  
together and was presented by Canada to  
the United States as a commemorative  
panel representing 15 years of international  
cooperation on Yukon River salmon  
management.

## SFN General Assembly

*will be held in Minto Landing  
August 3,4,5, 2018*

# Spring 2018

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