



Selkirk First Nation



**January 2016**

SFN News • Volume 12 • Issue 1

# Hets Eday

## Telling Stories

### Inside SFN News

Top News.....	2	Events & Activities.....	6	Training Opportunities.....	17
SFN Survey Results.....	4	Department Updates.....	10	Announcements.....	18

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



# Happy New Year!

We look forward to working with you and for you in 2016!

## SFN has a new website!



## Chief and Council Meetings 2016

January 12  
February 9  
February 23  
March 8  
March 22



## Top News

### WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

**Cody Gill** - Education Assistant

**Kiefer Johnny** - Administrative Assistant  
Department of Lands and Resources

We want to welcome our new Executive Advisor, **Sandra Roach**, back to the community.

Sandra is originally from Fort Frances, Ontario and is of Ojibway and Irish ancestry. In 1987-1999 she worked in the community of Pelly Crossing, as the Recreation Coordinator.



One of her memorable highlights is helping to organize the 1st Annual Yukon Indian Stickgambling Championships and advocating for youth to actively engage in sport and recreation. Several youth from Pelly Crossing went on to participate in the North American Indigenous Games and Arctic Winter Games.

During the past 25 years Sandra has held a number of senior positions with the Governments of Yukon, Canada and Nunavut. During her public service career Sandra has worked as a Senior/Policy Program Advisor for Sport Canada, Regional Manager, Aboriginal Programs for Canadian Heritage, and most recently Manager, Sport and Recreation Programs for the Government of Nunavut.

**Jennifer Lee** is very excited to be joining Selkirk First Nation as Director of Governance.



Jennifer has worked for many years in natural resource and land management. She recently completed a term assignment with Yukon government's department of Energy, Mines and Resources and has worked for a number of Yukon First Nations including Vuntut Gwitchin and Kwanlin Dun First Nations. Jennifer is married and has a 5-year-old son.

## FAREWELL TO PAST STAFF

Last November we said goodbye to **Albert Drapeau**, SFN's Executive Director for the past two years.

We were sad to see him go. During his tenure, Albert oversaw the daily operations of our government while moving forward important files. SFN is grateful for his dedication and support during those two years.

Albert has returned to Whitehorse to be closer to his growing family. We will miss you, Albert, and we wish you and your family all the best!

**Debbie Trudeau**, SFN's Executive Assistant for the past three years, moved to Whitehorse last November for family reasons. During her tenure, Debbie was always willing to help and assist her colleagues and Citizens. She acted as Executive Director and Mine Manager during her employment. Chief and Council would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Debbie for all her hard work with and for Selkirk. She often went above and beyond her job description and brought a lot of good advice to the table. We wish Debbie all the best in her future endeavors.



## Council News

### New Deputy Chief

Lori Sims stepped down from her term on September 1, 2015. Lori will continue to play an integral role as Councillor, while focussing her energy on managing the Early Childhood Development Center, 'Dunya Ka K'ats Int Kù. We would like to thank Lori for her dedication and commitment to our Citizens and government during her role as Deputy Chief.

Chief and Council appointed **George Magrum** Deputy Chief on September 1, 2015. He will hold that position until March 31, 2016.

In accordance with our Constitution, section 10.13, *"The Council shall choose the Deputy Chief from amongst its members and may fix the term of office of the Deputy Chief at the time its selection is made or as the Council may subsequently decide."*

Council decided in April 2014 to rotate the position. This provides an opportunity for members of Council to gain significant leadership and political experience.



# SFN Leading the Way – “Knowing Ourselves” Survey Results

In February and March 2015, SFN conducted an important survey of current living conditions of SFN Citizens in the Yukon. All SFN citizens, ages 16 and over, were invited to participate in the survey called “Knowing Ourselves.”

The purpose of the survey was to better understand the social, economic and cultural conditions of SFN Citizens and how resource projects are impacting them. Information from the survey will help SFN better respond to developments in our traditional territory; the needs of our Citizens that must be addressed and the ways of life that need to be protected and promoted.

This is the first time a survey of this nature has been conducted in the Yukon. The survey provides us with the most complete snapshot of community-level living conditions of a Yukon First Nation. The survey was conducted as part of the Minto Mine Socio-Economic Monitoring Program. The Minto Mine is required to implement this program to monitor the effects of the mine on SFN Citizens.

The result of the survey combined with data from the Minto mine on employment, income, training, business contracts and programs and social and economic information from the Yukon Government will paint a larger and better picture of how the Minto mine is affecting the

**Knowing Ourselves**  
SFN Survey of Living Conditions

During February and March 2015, Selkirk First Nation Citizens will be asked some questions about their living conditions. Your answers will help paint a picture of the strengths and weaknesses of our community, and will help us respond to the needs of our people.

**Your voice matters. Have your say and WIN!**  
Upon completing the survey, participants will receive a

- \$25 gift card from Canadian Tire
- and get their name entered in a draw for a chance to win one of two grand prizes:
- A generator valued at \$1,200
- 2 return tickets from Whitehorse to Vancouver!

**How to participate:**  
The survey is open to all SFN citizens 16 years and older living in Yukon. All interviews will be conducted between mid-February to end of March. Citizens in Pelly and Whitehorse can expect a face-to-face interview and citizens in other Yukon communities a phone interview.

All responses are confidential and anonymous. Overall results of the survey will be presented to Selkirk First Nation Citizens once all the data has been compiled.

For more information about the survey, contact Jean VanDolder at 867.537.3331

community of Pelly Crossing and SFN Citizens throughout the Yukon. This is the first instance of a multi-party program to undertake socio-economic monitoring and reporting of an approved mine project in the Yukon.

SFN owns the survey information, which means the results are confidential. Some of the information from the survey will help to fill some of the gaps in the Minto Mine Socio-Economic Monitoring Program and assist SFN in discussions with the Minto Mine to address problems and reap the benefits.

## SFN CITIZENS PARTICIPATE

More than 75% of the Citizens living in Pelly invited to participate in the survey were interviewed. For any type of survey, this level of participation represents an enormous success.

Almost 60% of SFN Citizens living in the Yukon outside of Pelly participated in the survey. Again, this is a very high participation rate for a survey.

The information collected from this survey represents the most detailed and complete information of living conditions of any community in the Yukon.

The SFN community survey collected information in a number of areas, such as:

- Household make-up and mobility
- Mental and physical health conditions
- Social conditions and networks
- Housing conditions
- Education and training
- Employment and income
- Material well-being and harvesting of country foods
- Cultural attachments to the land and community cultural vitality



## WHAT WE LEARNED:

SFN Citizens indicated a high level of attachment and commitment to Dooli law and customs.

SFN Citizens' knowledge of Northern Tutchone customs and laws is very high (greater than 80 percent), especially in Pelly Crossing where it increases with age.

Generally the ability of SFN Citizens to fluently speak and understand Northern Tutchone is low. In Pelly Crossing, older Citizens and especially Elders are most capable. More than half of all Citizens in Pelly Crossing speak only a few words or not at all.

In the Yukon, SFN household are characterized by the following notable features:

- small size (mostly two-person)
- a majority have no young (under 17 years) children
- a large majority (70 per cent) of SFN Citizens live in Pelly Crossing, followed by Whitehorse
- a large majority of SFN Citizens who don't live in Pelly Crossing have never lived in Pelly Crossing
- a strong attachments by Citizens to the place where they currently live, with very low mobility from one community to another
- of those who have moved in the last five years, most are younger people under 24 years, most moved only once, and most moved to pursue school or training
- there are no significant particular reasons for why SFN Citizens choose to live in Whitehorse, such as employment opportunities, lifestyle, or education opportunities. The opposite is the case for SFN Citizens who choose to live in Pelly Crossing: family obligations and attachments, opportunities for work, opportunities for harvesting country food, attachments to the land and social networks were important reasons for all SFN Citizens living in Pelly Crossing
- Over 80 per cent of all citizens participated in hunting and fishing activities, and many participated in berry-picking and the collection of medicinal plants. The latter was especially the case for older citizens. The level of participation by SFN Citizens living in Pelly

Crossing was higher than Whitehorse.

- Generally, wherever they lived, most SFN Citizens felt "safe" or safer (over the previous five years) in their current environment.
- for over 40 per cent of SFN families and Citizens living in Pelly Crossing more than half of the food that they consumed was country food.
- A large majority (over 75 per cent) of SFN Citizens and households living in Pelly Crossing indicated satisfaction with the quality and availability of country food that they obtained and their access to it.
- Amongst the wide variety of country foods that SFN citizens depend on to support their households, moose, Chinook salmon, grayling and trout and berries were key sources.
- 77 per cent of SFN participants across the Yukon responded that they were in good health in 2014 both physically and mentally.
- a majority of SFN Citizens across the Yukon indicated high levels of participation in activities that contribute to being healthy.
- Most Citizens are satisfied with their job or main activities although the satisfaction level is higher for Citizens living in Whitehorse and those employed with higher incomes.
- In Pelly 52 per cent were satisfied with jobs and other activities.
- Approximately 34 per cent of Citizens who responded had some trades or technical training or held related diplomas and certificates.
- a majority of SFN Citizens living in Pelly had completed a training course offered by SFN in the past five years.

## GETTING THE RESULTS TO CITIZENS

The results of the survey will be compiled into community reports and articles in our newsletters to inform SFN Citizens about the state of social, economic and cultural conditions of our First Nation and of our Citizens, how these are changing over time and where they need our attention.

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

We will hold community meetings to discuss specific areas of the survey; seek Citizens input and direction.

# SFN Welcoming Ceremony 2015

Long ago, but not so far away, it was our tradition to welcome people to our traditional homelands.

In that spirit, the education department of Selkirk First Nation hosted a Welcoming Ceremony on October 20th, 2015 as a way to greet new and returning community members to our home lands (Selkirk First Nation) and to our community.

The ceremony is an important part of the Northern Tutchone culture and traditions. Since there are new faces that are now living and

working in the community, it's a great way to get to know each other. It creates an opportunity for the community to come and work together as one.

During the evening, participants learned about the different services and programs available in the community such as health services and after school programs.

The evening was a great success and people went home having gotten to know each other a little more.

## New Detachment Members for Pelly Crossing



**Left-Right:** Cst Kevin Wright, Elder Rachel Tomtom, Cpl Ken Boone, Cst Sam Anderson

## General Assembly 2015

On August 23rd to 25th, 2015 the Selkirk First Nation held its annual General Assembly.

The Council and the Executive Department continue towards implementing the General Assembly Resolutions as well as the SFN Strategic Priorities along with the day-to-day operations of the government.

### **The General Assembly 2015, passed 8 resolutions:**

#### **Resolution # 1 - Selection of the Chair**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Darren Taylor and Eddie Skookum be contacted to determine availability. If not available, Line Gagnon will remain as chair for the duration of the 18th Annual General Assembly. (Line remained the Chair for the three days.)

#### **Resolution # 2 - 2014-15 Audited Financial Statements**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we affirm the receipt of the Selkirk First Nation Audited Finance Statements for the fiscal year 2014-15, as presented by M. McKay and Associates.

#### **Resolution # 3 - Capstone Shares**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SFN Chief and Council seek professional evaluation of the Capstone shares.

#### **Resolution # 4 - Elders/Citizens Request to Accompany Council to Meetings with Government Agencies and Mining Companies**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Elders have made a request for Chief and Council to appoint 2 Elders and 1 Citizen at large to accompany them to meetings with other Government agencies and mining companies.



#### **Resolution # 5 - Granite Canyon**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2015 SFN General Assembly does not support the development of a hydro dam in the SFN Traditional Territory.

#### **Resolution # 6 - Policy Transparency**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT all policies be presented to SFN Staff, Citizens for review prior to implementation, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all new policies are presented to the next occurring General Assembly.

#### **Resolution # 7 - Post-Secondary Education/Trades**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT as per the Student Support Policy, the Education Committee be directed to review the current PSE Policy and Draft Trades Policy and make changes to address the Assembly's concerns.

#### **Resolution # 8 - Housing Crisis**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Assembly directs a Special General Assembly be set as soon as possible following the Consultation to identify pillars and allocate funds under the Royalty Policy to address housing needs.



# SFN Citizens working towards strengthening the *Election Act*



The Constitution Committee held consultation regarding amendments to the Selkirk First Nation *Election Act*.

In October and November, 2015, the Committee held face-to-face consultation with SFN Citizens in Whitehorse, Pelly and also held an online consultation with Citizens outside of the territory. Information packages were sent to Citizens that didn't attend the sessions and to those living outside of the Yukon.

### BACKGROUND

#### 2010

SFN Constitution Committee was established with a mandate to review the SFN Constitution and make any recommendations for amendments or legislation.

#### 2012/2013

Constitution Committee reviewed the Constitution in consultation with SFN Citizens to determine if any amendments were required.

The review focused on the following:

- Qualifications for Office
- Clan representation
- Youth Councillor
- Residency for Chief and Council

The Committee recommended that the Assembly amend both the Constitution and *Election Act* to reflect the voice of the people.

The amendments to the SFN Constitution and *Election Act* were adopted in November 2013 by the General Assembly.

#### April 2014

The amended SFN *Election Act* was implemented during the 2014 SFN Election.

The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) provided a report after the Election to the Selkirk First Nation. This report indicated areas in the *Election Act* requiring clarification and recommendations to ease the process.



## Consultation... (continued)

The 2014 General Assembly instructed the Constitution Committee to review the Voting Age again and consider whether to change it back to 16 years of age.

### 2014/2015

The Constitution Committee concluded a review of the CRO's report, consulted with the Election Committee and Chief and Council.

### October 2015

The Constitution Committee is conducting consultation sessions with Selkirk First Nation Citizens in person and via webcast.

The Constitution Committee has identified five areas in need of amendments:

- Voting Age
- Nominations
- Verification Process
- Election Committee
- Dispute Resolution

### What are the Next Steps?

Once the Committee has concluded their consultation sessions with SFN Citizens, amendments to the *Election Act* will be drafted and brought to a Special Assembly in 2016.

If the recommended amendments are approved at the Assembly, the SFN *Election Act* will be amended as approved by the Assembly and published on the SFN website.

If you have any questions on the material provided, you may contact:

Sharon Nelson,  
SFN Senior Policy Advisor  
Selkirk First Nation,  
Box 40 Pelly Crossing, Yukon, Y0B 1P0  
Tel.: 867.537.3331  
Email: nelsonsg@selkirkfn.com

## Bill S-6 Legal Action

Three Yukon First Nations - the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and the Teslin Tlingit Council - are pursuing court action against the federal government for passing Bill S-6, which amends the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA).

On October 14, 2015, the three Self-Governing Yukon First Nations filed a Petition for the Yukon Supreme Court to declare Bill S-6 amendments to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) invalid.

The YESAA is a federal act, which gives legal effect to implement the unique development assessment process that is founded in the modern Yukon First Nation land claims agreements. All Yukon First Nations strongly opposed several of the changes to the YESAA as they are a breach of modern Treaties.

The majority of Self-Governing Yukon First Nations including Selkirk First Nation are supporting financially and in-kind the three Plaintiffs in this case, and the action will be brought on behalf of all Final Agreements.

For the last year, Yukon First Nations made every effort to resolve this issue through discussions and presenting sound options. Both the federal and territorial governments refused to engage in meaningful discussions.

The new liberal government did commit to repealing Bill S-6 however; we don't know when this will occur. We have to move forward in ensuring that the integrity of our Agreements are protected and respected. If the liberal government keeps its word, we will consider their approach when they present it to us.

We, the Selkirk First Nation, stand behind this approach and we will continue to protect the integrity of our Self-Government and Final Agreements.

## Lands & Resources

The lands department has been busy these last few months. We identified the sites for restoration: Stephen's cabin, Earn Lake, Coffee Creek and Lhutsäw Lake. We have repaired cabins on Lhutsäw Lake, Coffee Creek, and Stephen's Cabin.

### CABINS

These cabins are a vital part of our Northern Tutchone culture and traditions. Selkirk people have utilized the land for centuries for hunting and trapping. The land is important part of the Selkirk people. By restoring these cabins we are reasserting our Traditional Territory and ensuring that future generation can experience our way of life.

### PELLY SONAR PROJECT

With the declining salmon population and the restrictions of Selkirk people fishing for subsistence, SFN is taking a proactive approach and is starting to gather salmon population counts. This fall Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) and SFN Lands and Resources Department partnered to install sonar equipment at the mouth of the Pelly River to determine the salmon numbers. The information gathered can be used to develop a salmon management plan for the Pelly River.

The SFN Lands and Resource Department and EDI have completed the application and assessment process to get funding for this important project. We hope to have it up and running by next summer. The project will help SFN do an accurate count of the Chinook salmon that goes up the Pelly River and provide important information for the Salmon Management Plan.

As part of this project, Lands and Resources removed beaver dams and will continue to do so next spring and summer. Other components of this project include assessment of streams (check oxygen levels), spawning grounds and





## Lands & Resources *(continued)*

stream enhancement (taking out any obstructions affecting spawning). We are also setting fish traps to assess the health of the fish and the stream.

The SFN is the first Yukon First Nation to lead such a project. The Salmon Management Plan will include traditional knowledge and scientific data. The SFN recognizes that it is essential to have a well-rounded understanding of the salmon population and their behavior.

As a government, we take the management of our resources seriously. The salmon is not only subsistence for us but is an essential part of our culture. We have integrated a school salmon project where students get to learn hands-on about local Chinook salmon and Chum.

As we gather information, we will inform Citizens of our findings.

## Capital

### **Providing Safe Housing:**

Housing remains a top SFN priority. The SFN government is developing a strategy to:

- Address needs
- Develop a housing policy
- Establish a Housing Committee, and
- Develop service agreements with tenants

SFN has retained Kristina Craig to work in drafting a housing policy and service agreements for discussion purposes. The Housing Committee's Terms of Reference was approved by Council in November 2015. The Housing Committee representative have been selected. Shortly, they will begin their orientation in the New Year. In anticipation of the Terms of Reference being adopted, SFN is seeking interested individuals to sit on the Housing Committee.

### **Next Steps include:**

- Review the draft policy and service agreements and engage the community to inform the Citizens;
- Assess existing housing units and determine priority and planning for new construction and renovations; and
- Identify funding sources.

Capital Director, Adam and Council have been working closely over the past year to ensure due diligence as they prepare for this Spring's construction of the new Early Childhood Development Center building.

## Health & Social

### **Support Healing in our Community**

The wellbeing of SFN Citizens is important to Leadership. SFN is working with the local RCMP for the implementation of the "Talk and Knock" program. This is a step in the right direction; however, SFN Citizens need to report and also may have to testify if they witness transactions made between a dealer and an individual.

## Executive

### **Elders Council**

The restructuring of the Elders Council Coordinator has commenced. The Executive Director revised the SFN's Elders Service Worker job description. The Officer will provide administrative support to Elders needing services from the SFN government, facilitate the sharing of language, culture and traditions, coordinate Elders-Family Heads meetings to name a few.

### **SFN Operations Restructuring**

The Executive Department of the SFN

*continued on page 12....*

## Executive *(continued)*

Government is restructuring. The Executive Director's role will be divided in three positions:

**Executive Advisor** – This position has been filled by Sandra Roach. Sandra will be responsible for providing leadership with strategic and critical thinking, facilitate discussions with other governments officials and implement SFN priorities.

**Director of Governance** – will oversee negotiations, governing bodies, legislation, regulations and policies, maintain Council records, implement the Final and Self-government Agreements and other agreements, manage the election process, and work with legal and technical consultants.

**Director of Operations** – will oversee the daily operations of the government which include the management of personnel, implement operational goals, objectives and strategic priorities, provide advice and recommendations to Leadership and Senior management team.

## Recreation

During the Holidays, a variety of activities were held in Pelly Crossing. People enjoyed family sliding, bingo, jams and tournaments. Of course, the New Year's Eve dance and fireworks were a hit. Many Community members came out this year to enjoy the festivities.

Recreation promotes healthy lifestyles and contributes to people being more active. Recreational programming and activities for ages 6 and up are provided throughout the year. Activities include Baseball, swimming and swimming lessons, soccer, hockey and exercise nights. Afterschool activities are also



offered such as arts and crafts, board games, Mica Creek fishing, field trips. Special events are hosted for Halloween, Christmas, Canada Day, Spring Break Mother and Father's Day and family fishing at Jackfish and Tatla Mun Lake.

## Heritage & Culture

### Support the Education of our Community Members of All Ages

SFN Citizens and Leadership recognise the importance of our language and culture. SFN has been researching funding sources to provide a rich language and culture program to our students and Citizens. SFN's objective is to have a full time linguist on staff and work with Elders to develop language curriculum and language programs. To date, we have been unable to secure such funding. However, SFN and Yukon Government's Department of Education have signed a memorandum of Understanding. We are looking to have accreditation for cultural



# Department Updates

camp, SFN Self-government history, language and traditional skills.

## Doòli Dän K'i - Update

Doòli Dän K'i Elders and technical staff have been working hard this Summer and Fall to complete the tasks the Northern Tutchone Elders requested we accomplish at the Doòli Dän K'i Annual Gathering.

### In 2015:

- SFN held its 15th annual May Gathering
- Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation hosted the 4th annual Uncle's Retreat at Little Salmon – over 50 Elders and young men attended!
- First Nation Nacho Nyak Dun hosted the 3rd annual Auntie's Retreat at Ethel Lake
- Our Northern Tutchone Teachers continued their work on Hats'adän (Learning) lesson plans for another 5 stories;
- We are looking forward to publishing 8 new storybooks
- LSCFN Doòli Dän K'i will produce 10 of our traditional stories in each Northern Tutchone dialect. Each book includes learning activities aimed for preschool children.
- LSCFN Doòli Dän K'i received funds from Yukon Women's Directorate to work on recovering our Northern Tutchone naming practices and understanding our traditional family structures.

In November 2015, LSCFN Doòli Dän K'i welcomed Elders from all three Northern Tutchone communities for a 3 day workshop focused on recovering as many of our Northern Tutchone names as possible and to remember the stories and meanings behind our traditional names. More than 70 Elders attended each day.

**Please go and visit your Elders as often as you can!** The Elders are working together to provide the GIFT of our Stories and Traditional Knowledge for the benefit of our future generations. To be good Northern Tutchone people is to SHARE, CARE, RESPECT AND TEACH in all parts of our day-to-day lives.

## Department Contacts

For more info on any of these projects contact the relevant department:

### Lands & Resources

William Sydney, Director  
867.537.3331 ext 601  
sydneyw@selkirkfn.com

### Heritage & Culture

Teri-Lee Isaac, Manager  
867.537.3331 ext 606  
isaact@selkirkfn.com

### Health & Social

Lucy McGinty, Director  
867.537.3331 ext 401  
mcgintyl@selkirkfn.com

### Capital

Adam VanBibber  
867.537.3331 ext 701  
vanbibberadam@selkirkfn.com

### Recreation

Jeremy Harper, Recreation Coordinator  
867.537.3837

### Government Services

Sandra Roach, Executive Advisor  
867.537.3331 ext 201  
execdir@selkirkfn.com

Jennifer Lee, Governance Director  
867.537.3331

### Citizen Development

Tara Roberts, Education Manager  
867.537.3331 ext 503  
robertst@selkirkfn.com



## Christmas 2015

Top two photos: SFN Whitehorse Christmas Party

Bottom three photos: Eliza VanBibber School Christmas Concert





## The Sewing Project

Elders gathered each day for over two weeks to create beautiful beadwork.

Bottom photo, left to right: Elders Virginia, Clara, Annie and Lucy



# College Corner

## Hets'edän Kú' News

This fall, Hets'edän Kú' had a fantastic open house. We had a lot of interest in our Cultural Skills for Employment program, which is set for next fall. There is also a lot of demand in the community for computer training and first aid training. The campus offered several courses, including Standard First Aid, FoodSafe, and a variety of safety and work related certificates (WHMIS, TDG, Fire Safety, etc.). We are able to offer several safety courses online using Danatec; this is a great way to get safety training done at your pace and schedule! We also provided resume and cover letter writing support, as well as tax and EI assistance.

Our campus teamed up with Eliza Van Bibber School, and the students in Ms. Coburn's 6, 7 & 8 class, to put on a workshop on teenage brain development, and how nutrition affects the growth of young minds. Ms. Coburn's mother, who is a doctor, presented a lively talk while the crowd enjoyed delicious and nutritious snacks. This workshop was a great success.

Looking into the next year, Hets'edän Kú' is offering courses in Microsoft Outlook, Word and Excel. Each course will run for one week for half the day, in January and February. Yukon Learn is also delivering a free two-week computer training program, for those who are just beginning with computers. Those who complete the program will be eligible to purchase a refurbished desktop or laptop computer for an incredibly low price! Standard First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, and Advanced and Remote Wilderness First Aid will also be offered in the new

year. It is our goal to have first aid training offered often and flexibly, so many people in the community have access to this training. Selkirk First Nation citizens spend a lot of time on the land, and we feel it is important that everyone have the skills to take care of themselves and each other if things don't go as planned! We look forward to lots of knowledge sharing between participants on these courses.

### **Our craft night continues to be open twice a week; Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.**

This is a great time to dig out whatever project you are working on, get together with fellow citizens in a warm, safe space, share stories, and work on your projects! We've seen lots of sewing and beading, and people also work on homework, leather projects, collages, and more! We listen to music, hear interesting podcasts, and screen documentaries too! Everyone is welcome.

A reminder to all students that if you're interested in taking courses, you must come see us as soon as possible to complete the registration. The college can help you find funding (ASETS, Pelly-Carmacks Training Trust Fund, etc.). The college needs registration and payment in advance in order to arrange courses and pay for instructors to come from out of town. If registration happens too late, then we have to cancel courses, which we don't want to do!

Finally, Hets'edän Kú' wishes David Bennett a hearty 'congratulations' for winning the Aboriginal Employees Award of Honour for 2015!



## Wild land Fire Fighting: Are you interested in this career?

**15394 Yukon Inc. (Pelly Crossing Wildland Fire Company)** is recruiting motivated individuals interested in the crew member trainee position or to take the crew member training program in the Spring 2016.

15394 Yukon Inc. is in contract with the Government of Yukon, and must ensure that we have a qualified 3 man crew and 1 trainee position available, ready for fire suppression duty during the fire season.

This employment opportunity is seasonal, starting in April and ending at the end of August, and includes, fire suppression while living in a camp environment, equipment maintenance, radio communications, operating GPS equipment and chainsaw, flying in helicopters, potentially long hours, 8 – 16 hour days and up to 19 days straight without a day off while on a fire.

### Do you:

Enjoy being physically fit and physically challenged?  
Enjoy working outdoors?

Enjoy a diverse profession?

Believe in teamwork, safety, respect and integrity

Wildland firefighters spend the majority of their time in the outdoors. Wildfires will burn anywhere that fuel is present, so they are often sent to remote areas in the Yukon, and if the wildland fire season is slow in the Yukon, they may have the opportunity to travel to other areas throughout Canada and possibly, USA.

Firefighters may end up extinguishing fires on top of a mountain or may work on saving homes from flames near communities or in remote locations, and they may also assist with natural disasters such as flooding.

Positions under this contract: 1 crew leader, 2 crew members and 1 trainee position;



### Type 1 Crew members/Leaders:

Crew Member requirements are;

- Successful completion of a crew member training course, offered by Government of Yukon.
- Must be in good physical condition, be able to pass medical screening and a WFX fitness test, and be able to maintain a national standard 14:30 level of the WFX-FIT test for Type 1 Wildland Fire Fighter throughout employment.
- Must have a valid Standard first aid certification.
- Must have a valid class 5 driver's license.
- Must be willing to travel and have a valid passport. There may be opportunities to travel outside of Yukon when the season is slow in the Yukon.
- Must be punctual and dependable.
- Must be able to live in a camp environment
- Training Position: commitment and willing to learning as training for the above requirements will be provided.

### What type of training is offered?

- Chainsaw
- Restricted Radio Operators License
- Fire Management Training
- WHIMIS/Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- ATV/Utility Vehicle
- Incident Command Systems
- Helicopter safety, hovering entries and exits

If you are interested or require more information, contact the Selkirk Development Corporation office at: (867) 393-2181 or email; [ceo@selkirkdevcorp.com](mailto:ceo@selkirkdevcorp.com) or visit: #201-166 Titanium Way, Whitehorse.

## Announcements



Roxanne Buyck and Shawn Alfred welcomed their daughter on November 3, 2015, **Keanna Buyck**



Trish and Albert are happy to announce the arrival of their son on January 10, 2016  
**Martin Arthur Charles Drapeau**



**TUTCHONEE MUSICK**

## N-huudlin Dzenú Sóthän Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to my grandson **ALEJANDRO** for December 1/15. Grandma Loves Him with all her heart!

Happy Birthday to my son **ALLEN JOE** for December 19/15. I Love you.

Happy Birthday to **VAL STAUB** on December 5. Love from the Nelsons.

Happy Birthday Brother **RICHARD SIMS** on January 5. Love from the Nelsons.

Birthday greeting for my brother **RICHARD SIMS** and nephew **DAMIEN SIMS**. Both born on Jan 5.

Happy Birthday Nephew **SHAUN ROBERTS** on December 2. Love from the Nelsons.

Happy Birthday Uncle **DON TRUDEAU** on November 29. Love from the Nelsons.

Happy Birthday **NICOLAS SHORTY** on December 31. Love Mom, Dad and Mav.

## Congratulations

**TUTCHONEE MUSICK** graduated last spring from Eliza Van Bibber School. She is seen here with the Governor General's Bronze Award for academic achievement. She is headed to Whitehorse in January to Yukon College before going into the Practical Nursing Program next fall.

## Recall Alert

RECALL message from Health Canada concerning Allerject (epinephrine injection, USP). This notice is of particular concern for students with severe allergies that may use Allerject.



## In Memory



### Douglas (Chet) Urquhart

The Northern Tutchone people first met “Chet” (the Northern Tutchone name affectionately gifted to Doug Urquhart by Northern Tutchone Elders – pronounced ‘Chut’) when he worked with Selkirk First Nation’s Elders. SFN Elder’s recognised that Traditional Northern Tutchone Laws were not being added in the laws that were being developed under the Umbrella Final Agreement. They also recognised that they needed help from someone who could facilitate their group. Chet was that man.

He was unique in his thinking and mannerisms and one of the best facilitator that we have ever had. Chet quickly earned the respect and admiration of our Elders and many Northern Tutchone Citizens of Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun.

Chet identified with the way of life of Northern Tutchone people. He took our Elders vision of true traditionally based self-government and transformed it into living, breathing documents which he captured through cartoons and writing. He had the incredible ability to give hope, inspire and uplift First Nations people and to give us a voice that reflected what our Elders and communities wanted to say. He produced

documents with drawings of our people, their struggles and life journeys from before first contact to present day that are radically different from any conventional government documents.

Our traditional Doòli laws had gone underground but they were never forgotten. Chet was instrumental in drawing out much of this fundamental information and getting it to the forefront of our agendas through his fun loving style, hours of storytelling and lively discussion.

Chet made a profound impact that will live on in many of our lives. He was one of a kind and is remembered affectionately with much honour and respect. His work on our behalf has created a legacy that will make sure that the stories and culture of our ancestors from thousands of years, will be available for our future generations and our First Nation governments moving forward.

Selkirk First Nation along with our Elders would like to thank Chet (Doug) Urquhart and his family for the years of service he gave to our communities, helping our Elders recover our traditions and stories for the benefit of our future generations. Chet, we owe you more than can be expressed in words.

Goodbye Chet! We miss you.



Left to right: Doug, Franklin, Jerry, Tommy

# January 2016

SFN News • Volume 12 • Issue 1

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



The SFN Newsletter is published solely for the purpose of providing information to Selkirk First Nation Citizens. Material printed in this newsletter is the property of the First Nation (unless otherwise stated) and may not be reproduced without the permission of the Selkirk First Nation.

## Communications Office

### Selkirk First Nation

Box 40, Pelly Crossing, Yukon Y0B 1P0

Phone: 867-537-3331 Ext. 210

Fax: 867-537-3902

Email: [communications@selkirkfn.com](mailto:communications@selkirkfn.com)



Selkirk First Nation

