



Selkirk First Nation



WINTER '23

Volume 19 Issue 1

HETS EDAY

"TELLING STORIES"

RESPECT, CARING, SHARING & TEACHING

WHAT'S INSIDE...

SELKIRK
SUPERSTARS!

NEW YOUTH
SECTION!

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PHOTO: Selkirk Spirit Dancers

Council Connect



SWEARING IN CEREMONY

On April 12th, we warmly welcomed our newly elected Council and honored our outgoing Council Members with a swearing-in ceremony. Principal Elder Jean VanBibber hosted the ceremony as the Master of Ceremonies, while Kevin McGinty delivered the keynote address.

The ceremony had a celebratory aspect with light entertainment and a delightful lunch, bringing together all in attendance. The event marked a smooth transition of leadership for our self-government as we move forward under the guidance of our newly elected Council.

Elected Council Members:

Sharon Nelson, Chief – Returning for her second term as Chief

Ashley Edzerza, Crow Councillor
Returning for her third term

Samantha Dawson – Crow Councillor

Cody Sims – Wolf Councillor
returning for his 2nd term

Patrick McGinty – Wolf Councillor

Keyshawn Sawyer – Youth Councillor

Amy Johnny – Elder Councillor
returning for her 2nd term

Note:

Samantha Dawson has resigned from Council. As per our constitution, SFN held a by-election to fill the position of Crow Councillor.

Council Welcomes Crow Councillor Jessica Alfred

On November 11th, SFN welcomed Jessica Alfred to Council. The swearing-in Ceremony was after



BI-ELECTION

the by-election concluded and saw Jessica Alfred acclamated to Crow Councillor. Principal Elder Jean VanBibber welcomed those in attendance with some wise words of encouragement for Jessica. Also in attendance were the RCMP in full uniform and Red Surge. Jessica was welcomed by Council and gave a warm address to the community under her new title of Crow Councillor.

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Council Connect cont

COUNCIL BIOGRAPHIES



Sharon Nelson Chief (Wolf Clan)

Sharon Nelson is a Selkirk First Nation citizen and member of the Wolf Clan. She is recognized for her strong roots to SFN and her enduring commitment to the community. Her Northern Tutchone name is 'Eagle sitting and watching'. She grew up in the Yukon with her late parents, Sarah Sims and Gregory Sims. Her late grandparents were Maggie and Luke Roberts, as well as Della and Richard Sims. Sharon has two sisters and one brother. She is married to Kevin Nelson and has two sons, Maverick and Nicolas.

Having embarked on her educational pursuits and employment outside the

Yukon in 1984, Sharon returned to her roots in 1999 to begin her career with Selkirk First Nation. Starting as an Executive Director Trainee, she progressively ascended to the position of Executive Director in which she served for eight years.

In 2007, Sharon broadened her horizons by assuming the role of Executive Director for AFN Yukon Region in Whitehorse for two years. Despite the valuable experiences gained, her heart remained with Pelly, prompting her return in 2009. During this period, she assumed the role of Executive Director for 1 year before transitioning to Senior Policy Advisor.

In 2017, Sharon was elected to serve as Chief of SFN, a successful term that ended with her Council guiding us through the challenges of a global pandemic. She then took assumed the role as Governance Director in 2020, and played a key role in supporting Council, the Finance Committee, and the policy work within the administration.

Sharon is proud to be returning to her second term as Chief and hopes to add value and strength to our leadership with a focus on the health, well-being and safety of Citizens, transparency, sustainable programs and services, and economic growth for our community.



Ashley Edzerza Deputy Chief (Crow Clan)

Ashley, in her renewed role as Crow Councillor, returning for her third term, brings valuable experience from previous terms serving on Council. She has also been appointed Deputy Chief by Council in accordance with our Constitution.

Ashley's mother is Lena Joe, and her late grandparents were Tommy Joe and Florence Baum. On her paternal side, her father is the late George VanBibber and Grandparents the late George and Maria VanBibber. Ashley shares her life with her husband, Corey Edzerza, and together they have a 6-year-old son named Chase.

Her journey towards serving our community began at 14 when she started working summer jobs for SFN. After graduation, she continued to work for SFN in different capacities until she joined the Health and Social department in 2011.

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Council Connect cont

In 2014, driven by a desire to understand governance better and make a meaningful difference, Ashley decided to run for Council. She successfully served three terms on the council, two of which were consecutive.

Ashley's focus while serving on Council lies with important community issues, such as education, family dynamics, and the preservation of land and wildlife. Her vision is to help create a brighter future for the upcoming generations while preserving and cherishing our traditional culture amidst the demands of modern times.

Ashley Edzerza's dedication to her community and her respect for her family's legacy are evident in her continuous efforts to serve and contribute positively to the well-being and prosperity of her people.



Cody Sims Wolf Clan Councillor

Cody, known traditionally as Dek'a kin nadhat (man stands in front), is a notable member of the Egunde (Wolf) Clan. Born to Lori Sims and George Gill,

Cody carries a legacy rooted in the late Sarah Sims (Roberts) and Greg Sims, with great-grandparents being the late Maggie Baum and Luke Roberts.

Currently in his fourth year of leadership, including three years as the Youth Councillor, Cody now proudly serves as the Wolf Councillor, returning for his 2nd term. His drive for leadership stems from many motivations, such as inspiration from his parents, a commitment to ongoing skill development, meaningful connections & personal growth, and a determination to contribute to the advancement of our Nation and community.

Cody aspires to leave a leadership legacy that inspires not only fellow and future leaders in the practice of leading with compassion and humility, but also hopes this mindfulness transcends to every citizen. He aims to lead by example, demonstrating conviction in giving 100% to all his efforts. Cody envisions the Council's collective achievements elevating the community and improving citizens' lives. He encourages pride in our identity and upholding our traditional values—sharing, caring, teaching, and respecting one another.

Cody's advice for future Council candidates is to view leadership as a earned privilege, emphasizing the value of actions over words. Serving the community entails navigating pressure, balancing work and home life, and making tough decisions. Cody's succinct advice includes stepping up for the right reasons, leading with humility, understanding key responsibilities, and valuing collaboration.



Jessica Alfred Crow Clan Councillor

Jessica Rachel Alfred is a proud member of the Crow Clan, born in Whitehorse Yukon, to parents Emma Alfred (Selkirk First Nation) and Edward Graham (Champagne Aishihik First Nation). Jessica spent most of her childhood living in Whitehorse, where she graduated from F.H Collins. She continued her education at Yukon College. While pursuing her education, Jessica never lost sight of her traditional lifestyle and values. From a young age, she was taught by her family about strong Northern Tutchone moral values and respect, understanding Dooli, and the teachings of skills while at fish camp and hunting camp.

Subsequently, Jessica returned to Pelly Crossing and embarked on her career with SFN in the Lands Department, initially as the Administration Assistant. This role provided her with invaluable insights into Land Management, fish and wildlife, heritage preservation, committee maintenance, and the coordination of the Annual Northern

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Council Connect cont

Tutchone Fish and Wildlife May Gathering. She dedicated seven years to the Department before taking a break to become a full-time mother of three children. Upon her return to work with SFN, she took on roles such as Post-Secondary Education Administrator, Governance Support Assistant, Wellness Director Trainee, and Recreation Coordinator. Between her job transitions, Jessica also assumed various Coordinator positions for community events, consistently volunteering when her assistance was needed.

Jessica's deep commitment to the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional wellness of Selkirk First Nation members inspired her to pursue a seat on the Council. Her dedication to preserving traditions and encouraging individuals to establish their own connections with the land and culture is rooted in her strong desire to foster community wellness. Her experiences as a member of SFN's Administration staff further fueled her decision to seek a role on the Council. Additionally, Jessica is determined to advocate for equal access to educational opportunities for all SFN citizens, regardless of their level of education.

Currently, Jessica resides in Pelly Crossing as a single parent, raising her three children: Luca, Levi, and Julianna. During her time off, Jessica enjoys spending quality time with her children, being home in the community enjoying the different community events and engagements. Jessica and her children love travelling and being out on the land with family and friends.



Patrick McGinty Wolf Clan Councillor

Patrick McGinty, Wolf Councillor, is a dedicated individual with a clear mission to make a positive impact on the path of his community. Born to Agnes McGinty and John Laquant, his maternal grandparents are the late Annie and Tommy McGinty, and his paternal grandparents the late Alice Guy and Kevin Laquant, who all instilled in him the values of traditional knowledge and helped provide the foundation for his sense of responsibility.

Patrick, also known as Patrick Thomas Khanajete McGinty, ran for council

to help build a brighter future with increased opportunities for the people of SFN, not just for those in administration but for all citizens in various aspects of community life.

For Patrick, the greatest reward as a Council member will be knowing that he has worked towards making a positive difference within the community. While Patrick understands that our community faces challenges in capacity and infrastructure, he remains committed to overcoming these obstacles and working towards continuously strengthening our community.

Patrick emphasizes the importance of self-reflection and the need for a strong support team to navigate the challenges ahead. Through his dedication and vision, Patrick McGinty continues to contribute to the betterment of his community, striving for positive change and increased opportunities for all.

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Amy Johnny Elder's Councillor

Amy Johnny is a member of the Wolf Clan, born to David Silas and Martha Silas. Her family lineage includes grandparents Big Jonathan Campbell and Susan Phillips Jonathan.

Amy was inspired to run for council with a desire to offer support and guidance to the community. She wants to “be there” for the community and the people of Selkirk First Nation. Amy is returning for her 2nd term.

Amy brings a lot of traditional knowledge to her position on Council. Her knowledge, coupled with her firsthand experiences of witnessing the changes in the land and climate, and the dynamics of our community, provide valuable insights to her leadership role.

What Amy hopes to work towards during her term is for Council to facilitate people coming together, and through collective effort, grow stronger.

Amy is also involved in many community events, where she likes to catch up with family and friends. Her traditional knowledge, her passion for community and culture, and her aspirations of creating a stronger, more unified community make her a valued asset on the Council.



Keyshawn Sawyer Youth Councillor

Keyshawn, currently in his first term on Council as the Youth Councillor. His mother is Rebecca Roberts, and his father is Scott Sawyer. On his mother's side, his grandparents are Freda Alfred and Benjamin Joe, and on his father's side, his grandparents are Thelma Sawyer and Kenneth Sawyer.

Keyshawn is also grateful for the mentorship of Don Trudeau, Audrey

Trudeau, Kevin McGinty, Betty Baptiste, Sharon Nelson, Jeremy Harper, Cody Sims and the late Roger Alfred. They have provided valuable guidance and support as he works towards building a stronger community for Selkirk First Nation.

He also draws strength from overcoming past adversities as a youth who has previously lost and regained his path. Equipped with growth and lessons, he is determined to be voice for the younger generations who walk the balance between traditional and modern ways. He began his leadership journey on the Youth Committee, with hopes to uplift and empower the youth of Selkirk First Nation.

Proud to be Northern Tutchone, Keyshawn grew up in Whitehorse and Pelly Crossing, and graduated from Eliza VanBibber School in 2022. Guided by values such as kindness, respect, resilience, generosity, and compassion, he is committed to enhancing the well-being of his community. Keyshawn envisions a future where our people thrive with success and strength at their fullest potential. His deep connection with the community extends to meaningful relationships with Elders where has gained invaluable knowledge, and he strives to share these insights with the younger generation about the knowledge and history that shapes their community's identity.

A Message from Council

GREETINGS

INYE DO HUCH'I (HOW ARE YOU?).

We are pleased to present you with this newsletter, which will provide activity reports from the Administration. On behalf of Council, we wish to thank you for your support in the April 2023 General Election. It is an honour and privilege to receive your vote of confidence to serve as your Council for the next three years. We have been in office for six months and in that time, we have gotten to know each other as individuals and as Leaders. We spent the first few months learning our roles and responsibilities, meeting with Departments for updates, and identifying areas to focus on.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Water System Expansion and Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

Safe water supply continues to be a high priority for Council. Access to clean drinking water is a basic human right and water treatment is important to ensure the water we use is safe, clean and free from disease-carrying organisms. Pelly Crossing's existing water system has two water wells as drinking water sources. Water

demands are expected to increase in the future due to population growth so upgrades to the water treatment plant and expansion of the distribution of piped water to Jon Ra and Willow Creek subdivisions were identified as priorities and ground work was started in 2023 and is ongoing.

Threats to Public Order and Public Safety within our Settlement Land

Council has a duty, under our Constitution to attend to the interests of our First Nation and our Citizens and to exercise our powers as a Self-Governing First Nation to control or prohibit activities which may constitute threats to public order and public safety within our Settlement Land. In April 2023, Council filed a petition with the Supreme Court of Yukon to prohibit Brent Colin Nibecker, who was suspected of conducting illegal activity, from being on Settlement Land. The result was a court order that states Colin Nibecker shall not attend Selkirk First Nation settlement land until April 2025. This has set a precedent for the type of action Selkirk First Nation will take to protect its Citizens and community.

SFN General Assembly Resolution #7 Opioid Emergency Response

Yukon has reported an opioid crisis, including the community of Pelly Crossing. Some communities have declared a state of emergency and in March 2023, the SFN General Assembly passed resolution #7 Opioid Emergency Response relating to the opioid crisis in our community. It is going to take the community, as a whole, to address this crisis. Council has sent letters out to the community seeking their assistance, and putting occupants of Selkirk homes on notice, that illegal activity by Citizens or guests will not be tolerated and will lead to eviction. In the 2023/24 budget, Council set aside dollars to hire counsellors and psychiatric services. The administration has now recruited a full-time Counsellor.

5 Year Plan: A Pathway to Community Wellness: A Roadmap for SFN

A General Assembly resolution was passed in 2022 calling for the appointment of a Wellness Committee of Citizens to work with and provide policy guidance, including evaluating any SFN Department that is providing programs and services that are intended to improve the lives of Citizens. A Terms of Reference

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A Message from Council cont

for this committee is currently in first draft and recruitment for this committee will commence shortly after the TOR is finalized. Council looks forward to the assistance this committee will provide.

Minto Mine

In May 2023 Minto Metals announced the closure of the Minto mine. Without delay Council, the Mineral Resources Director, Kevin McGinty and SFN Legal Counsel James Harper, assembled to ensure that the environmental integrity of the site was being maintained. This required many meetings with Yukon Government. Minto Metals then went into receivership and Pricewaterhouse Coopers was appointed by the Court as the receiver. Throughout the whole process, Selkirk has been closely monitoring and engaging where necessary to ensure the receiver is granted permission to access settlement land and that Yukon Government is granted access to settlement land for the purpose of care and maintenance, and that environmental monitoring is continuing.

Also, a creditor, who Minto Metals owed money to, filed a petition in the BC Court asking for access to the concentrate as payment for what they were owed. Council immediately retained legal counsel, that being Austring, Fairman & Fekete, and gave direction to file a petition to the BC Court objecting



COUNCIL VISITS
FARO MINE SITE



to the removal of concentrate before Selkirk was paid the royalties owed on that concentrate. The result being the BC Court ruled that Selkirk is owed the royalties and payment was received.

Casino Mine

Casino Mine requested a meeting with the Council to provide an update on their project. The Casino project is currently under review by the Yukon Panel. Council retained a technical advisor to assist us through the Yukon Panel review process. Due to the magnitude of the project, this is the first project that has been referred to the Yukon Panel for review.

Faro Mine Site Tour

Members of Council, Mining Department Staff and members of SFN's mining technical team participated in a tour of the Faro Mine site. We continue to monitor the project with a focus on the environmental remediation processes currently in place.

Yukon First Nations Graduation Ceremony/ Yukon University Graduation

It was a pleasure for Council members to join the Yukon First Nation High School and Yukon University graduation celebrations.

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A Message from Council cont



YUKON FIRST NATION GRADUATION CEREMONY

Parents, family and friends looked very delighted as the students walked across the stage with a sense of great accomplishment to receive their diplomas and degrees. Graduation marks the start of a new journey, when young people go into the world of work or to pursue higher education and to explore new interests. Council is proud of all the students and their achievements and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Investment Quarterly Meetings

Along with the SFN Finance Committee and Selkirk's Investment Advisors, Council attends quarterly meetings with the Investment Managers who report on how our investments have been doing. The meetings are a way to maintain

oversight of our investments. Currently, the managers are taking a cautious approach due to the current market condition.

SDC Quarterly Meeting

Council sits as Shareholders of the Selkirk Development Corporation and companies. Quarterly meetings are held to receive progress reports on the development and progress

of SDC's various business ventures, as well as presenting any future ventures. Council has attended two quarterly meetings thus far. Discussions focused on new business opportunities now that Minto Mine has closed and that revenue source has concluded.

SDC 30th Anniversary Celebration

This year marked Selkirk Development Corporation's 30th Anniversary. We were happy to attend their celebration in Pelly Crossing with a presentation, dinner, and entertainment.

Congratulations SDC!

Yukon Government

Selkirk First Nation Council met with Yukon Premier Pillai and we discussed matters regarding highways, the Nursing Station, the school, the economy, Casino Mine, Minto Mine, and Faro Mine. Council will continue to have discussions



SDC 30TH ANNIVERSARY

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A Message from Council cont



YUKON FORUM - CHIEF NELSON AND COUNCILLOR CODY SIMS ATTEND

on these ongoing matters with stakeholders.

Council also met with Minister Nils Clarke and we discussed the First Nation Procurement Policy, YG's Five-Year Capital Plan, disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, and energy efficiencies. We also asked for an update on the Pelly Crossing Aerodrome improvements, specifically whether there will be runway lights installed to allow year-round medivacs and landings. We also discussed the McCabe Bridge upgrades as YG is considering a change to the corner at McCabe creek which would intrude onto settlement lands. We also discussed community recreation trails, fire break or fire smarting projects as an all-government priority, and green power initiatives. Minister Clarke

also talked about YG's desire to have more conversations with Yukon First Nations around feasibility studies with the goal of increasing salmon numbers.

Yukon Forum

Chief Nelson, Councillor Cody Sims along with Governance staff attended two Yukon Forums. Topics discussed by Yukon Government and Yukon First Nations included, Yukon Residential Schools Missing Children Project, substance use health emergency and Yukon Government's Putting People First Report, the opioid crisis and substance use issues, emergency preparedness, wildland fire and resiliency, successor legislation, the wetland policy, introduction

into YG's 125 medal, and Intergovernmental Forum and Yukon Days which are forums to engage with the Government of Canada. Council will continue to engage with our counterparts on these important matters.

Community Meeting - Department Updates August 24th and continued on September 20th.

Council held two community meetings to allow all departments to provide updates and take questions from Citizens. Council understands the importance of community engagement and will continue to fulfill our commitment to share information and collaborate with Citizens on the design and delivery of services.

CYFN Leadership and General Assembly

Members of Council attended CYFN Leadership meetings and the Annual General Assembly. Topics discussed: Updates from Chiefs Committees, Yukon Government's new Health Authority Act and the need to ensure health equity and quality services, Yukon Residential School Missing Children Project, the Substance Use Emergency, new Critical Mineral Legislation, Lands

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A Message from Council cont



CYFN GA



Legislation, Fisheries, Energy, UFA Implementation, an Amendment to YESSA regarding exemptions for renewals and amendments, Regional Income Assistance – the need to find a new organization to deliver the program in Whitehorse, CHON FM's 40th Anniversary, and CYFN's new Family Preservation Wellness Centre (Women's Shelter).

Yukon School Board Meeting

Council and the community met with Yukon First Nation School Board representatives to learn about the option of the Eliza VanBibber School being administered by the

Yukon First Nation School Board rather than by the School Council, as per the Yukon Government's Education Act. The community meeting supported joining the First Nation School Board, triggering a referendum vote which took place in the fall of 2023 and the community voted to join the First Nation School Board. The FNSB is currently working towards setting up a Community Committee. To have a better understanding of how this change will impact SFN's Education MOU with Yukon Government and Section 17 of our Self-Government



YUKON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Agreement (Division and shared responsibility) with regard to K5-12 education in Pelly Crossing, Council will be reviewing those agreements and having further discussions with Yukon Government and the Yukon First Nation School Board.

Hospital Tour New Mental Wellness Unit

Council was invited by Whitehorse General Hospital to attend a tour and briefing on the new Mental Wellness Unit (currently under construction). The expansion will take the unit from a 5 bed facility to 12 beds. This will help address the shortage of beds that the hospital currently is facing in the Mental Wellness Unit.

RCMP

The RCMP attended a meet and greet with the new council and discussed their annual plan. Council discussed growing concerns about youth violence and bullying within the community; we identified a

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A Message from Council cont



COUNCIL ATTENDS OPENING OF MENTAL WELLNESS UNIT

need to do an education campaign on the effects of bullying, drug and alcohol use, and the need for a community-based solution to these ongoing situations. The result was an agreement to start having interagency meetings with the nurse, the RCMP, SFN's Child & Family Support Manager, Community Safety Officer, the school and citizen development department to begin brainstorming on an action plan.

National Gathering of Survivors

Councillor Ashley Edzerza and youth Councillor Keyshawn Sawyer were part of a group of representatives that attended the National Gathering of Survivors. Presentations included: Honouring Indian Residential School Survivors through Film: Insights from Director Stephen Campanelli; Seven Sacred ways of Healing Trauma through Mind, Body and Spirit; Breaking the Traumatic Bond of Colonial Mindset; The Turtle Island Project Experiential Exercise; Try Differently



KEYSHAWN SAWYER WITH DR. GABOR MATE

COUNCIL AND SFN REPS VIEW HEALING BOX

Rather than Try Harder; Embracing Your Dark Side: An Introduction to the Shadow and other Parts of Self; Inside the Storm of Trauma to Hope and Reclaiming the Self; The Drug Crisis That Won't Go Away!; Compassion, fatigue with a focus on burn out; Dr. Gabor Mate – Book Signing; Resilience and Reclamation: Inuit History and Identity in a Changing Colonial World; Community Resurgence: Empowering Residential School Survivors through Mutual Support and Indigenous Wisdom; Breaking the Traumatic Bond of Colonial Mindset; Reclaiming Healthy Sexualities; Thriving in a Colonial World: Navigating Life with Traditional Teaching and Culture; Indigenous Liberation Through the Revival of Kinship; Getting to Know the NCTR and How to Search for Records in the NCTR Archive; Reconciliation 2.0: "Breaking the Chains of Colonial Mindset"; Honouring Resolution Health

Support Workers and Cultural Support Workers.

Community Planning

Council continues to look to the future and have initiated a few community planning exercises. A call for proposals will be put out to hire a planner to work with the community for a Community Land Use Plan (including where to put future infrastructure builds), the design of a new Youth Centre, and the design of a new Administration Building.

Yukon Prize Gala - Patrick McGinty and Keyshawn Sawyer

Councillors Patrick McGinty and Keyshawn Sawyer attended the Yukon Arts Gala where our citizen Kaylyn Baker won the Yukon Arts Gala

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A Message from Council cont



COUNCILLORS PATRICK AND KEYSHAWN SHOW SUPPORT FOR KAYLEY BAKER

prize with her stunning collection of wearable First Nation art and design.

Mayo Evacuees

The Village of Mayo was evacuated on August 6, 2023 due to a nearby wildfire. A number of evacuees were Selkirk First Nation Citizens and they were welcomed to stay in Pelly Crossing until the Order from Yukon Protective Services was lifted. Deputy Chief Ashley Edzerza took the lead and oversaw the distribution of three meals a day for Mayo evacuees while they were residing here. The evacuation Order was downgraded to an alert the following Sunday as the weather improved and the evacuees were able to head home. Selkirk First Nation was happy to be of assistance during this emergency and grateful to know that there was

no harm to any of our neighbors homes.

Meeting with MLA Jeremy Harper

Council had a meeting with our MLA, Jeremy Harper, during which we discussed various topics related



MLA JEREMY HARPER VISITS COUNCIL

to the community's ongoing projects and how he can support us.

Community Events

Various members of Council have attended multiple community events and functions throughout the last 6 months, including the Aunties Retreat, Northern Tutchone Youth gatherings, and SFN's Youth Gathering.

DEPUTY CHIEF:

Ashley Edzerza has served from April to October 2023. Patrick McGinty will serve from October to January 2024.

THANK YOU!

We hope this report has given you insight into the important work Council have been involved in. If you have any questions, please contact Tristan Newsome at 537-3331 ext. 201

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A Message from Council cont

Introducing Tristan Newsome: A Dedicated Leader Joining Selkirk First Nation

Selkirk First Nation is pleased to introduce its new Executive Director, Tristan Newsome. With a strong background in leadership and a drive for personal and professional growth, Tristan brings a wealth of experience and determination to his role.

Tristan holds a degree in political science and is currently pursuing a master's degree with the University of Alaska. His continued study reflects his drive to deepen his understanding of the complexities of government and decision making.

Prior to joining us, Tristan served over a decade in charitable organizations and governments including a role as a Senior Advisor with the Yukon Government, and Executive Director with the Food Bank Society, a Whitehorse based Non-Government Organization.



TRISTAN NEWSOME

As a testament to Tristan's leadership skills and strategic vision, Tristan steered the NGO away from bankruptcy, transforming it into a thriving and financially secure entity. Today, this organization continues to provide essential services to a wide range of Yukoners.

Tristan's professional interests lie in building organizational and staff capacity to help organizations achieve their goals. He is passionate about fostering team cohesion

and accountability, recognizing that collective effort enhances organizational effectiveness.

On a personal note, Tristan's family has joined him in Pelly Crossing. His wife Eva, who is a Kwanlin Dun First Nation citizen, and his son Russell have taken the brave step of embarking on this journey together. Russell will be attending the daycare center, further strengthening their personal connection to our community.

Expressing gratitude for the warm reception he has received so far, Tristan shares, "I am incredibly grateful for the support and welcoming atmosphere I have encountered since joining Selkirk First Nation. Relocating your entire family and starting a new job can be daunting, but the kindness and support I have received have made this transition much smoother. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to SFN and the Pelly Community, and I look forward to meeting and connecting with everyone."

Youth - Our Future Leaders Today

Selkirk First Nation Youth Committee: Forging a Brighter Future

Introduction to the Youth Committee

In the midst of the landscape of structured organizations and governing bodies of Selkirk First Nations, a remarkable group of young individuals has come together with a shared vision – to uplift and empower our youth. This passionate team includes Cody Sims, Amber Baker, Keyshawn Sawyer, Gavin Joe, Jessica Tuck.. These dedicated members form the Youth Committee, a group with a mission to advocate for the needs and interests of our 'Generation Youth' along with the assistance of Maureen McGinty as the Youth Coordinator

The Youth Committee gathers periodically to engage in active listening, collaborative learning, and collective brainstorming. Their goal is to amplify the voices of



COUNCILLOR CODY SIMS, GAVIN JOE, MAUREEN MCGINTY, AMBER BAKER, KEYSHAWN SAWYER. NOT IN PHOTO: JESSICA TUCK

Selkirk First Nation's youth, ensuring that their concerns, dreams, and aspirations are heard loud and clear.

Youth Committee member Gavin Joe stands firmly behind the objectives of the Youth Committee and envisions a brighter future for our youth, wanting to realize objectives that support and uplift the youth population. With unwavering dedication and commitment, let's delve into some of the critical issues the Youth Committee has addressed.

The Committee Calls for a Dedicated Youth Facility

Amber Baker, an active member of the Youth Committee and someone who is very involved in her community and culture, serves as a great voice for the youth population. She has been a vocal advocate

for the creation of a multiplex center specifically designed for our youth, stating, "I deeply care about our young generations and the ones to come." She has expressed her concerns regarding the delay in implementing 2019 GA Resolution #5, which focuses on the development of a multiplex center.

Amber asserts, "Our First Nation talks so highly about 'Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow,' but I don't see the steps being taken to support our youth. It has been over 5 years, and nothing has been done to turn this vision into a reality."

She adds that the multiplex center would serve as an invaluable training ground for youth interested in sports and activities, such as preparing

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Youth - Our Future Leaders Today cont



COUNCILLOR CODY SIMS WITH YOUTH

for the Arctic Winter Games. It would provide a safe and nurturing environment for our young people to thrive and grow.

Keyshawn Sawyer echoes Amber's sentiments, stating, "We talk about our youth like they mean everything to us, but I don't see that support." He acknowledges the limited facilities available for our youth, pointing out that many have

previously used the old youth center, one of the oldest buildings in Pelly.

To address this challenge, Keyshawn emphasizes the need for proper facilities that can offer our youth opportunities. He firmly believes that establishing a platform for our youth to flourish, nurture their interests, and develop their skills represents a vital starting point for their personal growth.

Keyshawn also raises a poignant question about the lack of intergenerational programs, asking, "Why aren't there more initiatives that bridge the gap between our youth and Elders?" This sentiment is backed by Elder Lizzy Hall, who is adamant that the Youth and Elders spend more time together. This effort was supported by the recent Youth and Elder's conference (hosted by Heritage) held at the Link building. A dedicated facility could potentially facilitate weekly Youth & Elder drop-in programs, fostering intergenerational connections and social events.

The call for a facility transcends the Youth Committee and is echoed by other youth, both within and outside of Pelly. Ethan Isaac, a youth who worked in recreation for three years, shares his experience and insights at a recent GA, saying, "Youth in Pelly need a space to belong, connect, and thrive. We can't grow in this community without resources." He emphasizes that for better opportunities and experiences, some of our youth like him have had to



YOUTHS SPEAK AT GA



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Youth - Our Future Leaders Today cont



YOUTH SPEAK TO COUNCIL

leave the community and move to places like Whitehorse where they could find a space and outlet for their activities and interests.

Youth on Mental Health

Maureen McGinty, SFN's former Youth Coordinator, also expressed her concerns in past General Assembly presentations to the community. She believes that it's essential to create spaces where our youth can flourish outside of school. "We need to strengthen our culture, foster healthier experiences, revive storytelling," she insists, while also drawing attention to the need to prioritize youth mental health.

Jessica Tuck, a dedicated member of the Youth Committee who resides outside of Pelly, stresses the challenges faced by youth transitioning into adulthood. Finding resources and information about available opportunities can be an overwhelming endeavor.

While these challenges may be considered a rite of passage into adulthood, we should recognize that today's youth face a distinct set of circumstances. Unlike previous generations, they contend with contemporary issues like the pressures of social media, the impacts of natural disasters and climate change, and a heightened

sense of uncertainty about the future. More than ever before, our youth grapple with the consequences of unfiltered social media and web based influences along with the realities of public scrutiny.

The Committee's Ongoing Dedication to the Future

The Youth Committee was formed as a result of a 2020 GA resolution as a response to Youth who called for their voices to be listened to. This is a tremendous opportunity for SFN Youth to gain valuable experience in leadership and the Committee honors this by remaining committed to their objectives of making recommendations on behalf of all SFN Youth. As they continue to meet, their voices will undoubtedly grow more unified and stronger, resonating even more powerful throughout our community. It was they who chose the name for this Youth section in the newsletter, "Youth of Today: Leaders of Tomorrow," a name that reflects their commitment to uplifting and empowering youth – the generation that will inevitably wear the responsibility for shaping a brighter future for Selkirk First Nation.

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Youth - Our Future Leaders Today cont

Your Mental Health Matters

During a recent Youth Committee meeting, we listened to our future leaders and discovered their keen interest in all topics umbrellaed under a term playfully referred to on social media as “Adulthood 101”. Once-dull subjects that may have been as interesting as watching paint dry, have now become pressing concerns of interest for our youth who are invested in becoming healthy flourishing self-reliant young adults. These topics include nutrition & fitness advice, how to file taxes, budgeting, resume crafting, and steps on how to access healthcare benefits covered under our treaty rights.

One pressing question emerged from this discussion: “Where can we find mental health resources for ourselves or others in need of support?” To find answers, the search began with SFN’s own Wellness Department, a hub for citizen mental and physical wellness resources.

Janelle Hager on Mental Health and Breaking the Stigma

As a registered nurse, Janelle Hager has a lot of insight to offer on the subject of mental health for not only our youth but all Selkirk Citizens at large. As an active member of the community and SFN’s Child and Family Support Manager, she’s very happy to hear that our youth are interested in discussing the important topic of mental health. She has advice for those who find themselves needing support:

1. **Reach Out:** The first and crucial step is to talk to someone they feel comfortable with in the Wellness Department. The Wellness Department is here to support our community members with both physical and mental health needs.
2. **Assessment:** Once they’ve reached out, the Wellness Department will gather more information and assess the severity of their needs. This assessment helps in determining the right plan of action.

3. **Urgent Situations:** In cases of crisis or when there’s an immediate concern that the person or others are at risk of harm, don’t hesitate to call both the RCMP and the Nurse Station for urgent assistance.

The narrative surrounding mental health has evolved. Stigma is fading, thanks to a more inclusive and compassionate climate fostered by health professionals and younger generations who are invested in breaking down barriers surrounding mental health. Citizens should not hesitate to approach staff in the wellness department.

However, if you need support but prefer to remain anonymous, there are still options. You can anonymously call the Wellness Department, the RCMP, or Nursing Station, providing the person’s name and reason for concern. Additionally, the toll-free Kids Help Line offers confidential support and advice (number below).

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Youth - Our Future Leaders Today cont

To further support youth, Child & Family Support Services is planning on hosting both, a boys and a girls youth group to gain insight on how youth would like to be supported. The program is also exploring a pilot project where a counsellor will be invited into the school once a month to support students, if this initiative is successful, they will continue with bi-weekly counsellor visits. Janelle and her team are working continuously to ensure our youth have access to constructive and positive mental health supports in the community. She is currently the point of contact for children at risk or children currently in care and she is available if anyone would like to discuss more information and recourses.

Tip: Tear this page out to have quick access to information and resources available to you!

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Resources & Numbers

SFN Child & Family Support Services:

1-867-537-3331 ext. 402

Selkirk First Nation Counsellor: SFN has hired a full-time Counsellor who will be working in the community starting in mid-January. Contact details will be posted on all media as soon as the Counsellor is in the community.

Pelly Crossing RCMP:

(867) 537-2677

Kids Help Phone

24/7 national support service offering professional counselling & text-based support to youth.

kidshelpphone.ca

Call: **1-800-668-6868**

Text the word **"connect"** to: **686868**

Community Hubs

YG Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services provides counselling services for children, youth and adults in all Yukon communities. Communities are served through Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services Community Hubs. The Carmacks hub provides services to Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, Ross River and Faro.

For more information call: **867-456-3838**

Whitehorse Counselling Services

Provides rapid access counselling within 72 hours of your initial call. We also offer longer-term counselling for individual Yukoners, starting with 12 sessions and group counselling options.

Phone: **867-456-3838**

Canadian Mental Health Association Yukon

Offers innovative services and supports to youth and adults who are experiencing mental illness, and to their families. To book a free counselling appointment for youth, adults, families and couples phone: 867-668-6429

For confidential, non-judgemental, free support, phone:

1-844-533-3030

Counsellor Corry Rusnak - **867-689-6404**

A counsellor hired by SFN to provide services for those living in Pelly.

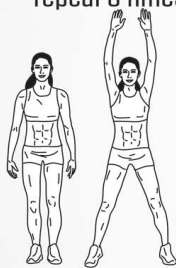
Youth - Our Future Leaders Today cont

Physical activity is one of many aspect of mental health.
Please enjoy these tear-away workouts to hang on your wall
from Darebee.com."

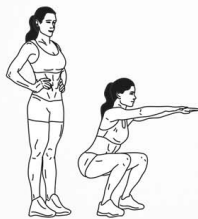
15-minute MORNING WORKOUT

by DAREBEE © darebee.com

repeat 3 times in total with 2 minutes rest between sets



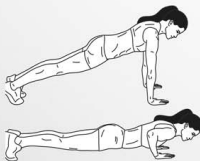
20 jumping jacks



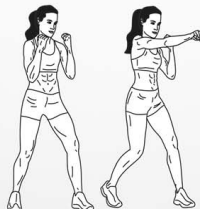
20 squats



20 lunges



10 push-ups



40 punches



60sec elbow plank

TURBO CHARGED

DAREBEE **HIIT** WORKOUT © darebee.com

Level I 3 sets Level II 5 sets Level III 7 sets | 2 minutes rest



20sec plank hold



20sec shoulder taps



20sec climbers



20sec butt kicks



20sec jumping lunges



20sec high knees

cont'd on page 21

Youth - Our Future Leaders Today cont

Selkirk First Nation Youth Engages in Treaty Negotiations Simulation

The Gordon Foundation hosts an annual treaty negotiation simulation, offering participants an immersive experience in negotiations concerning our Self-government and Final Agreements. This intensive 2-day exercise allowed attendees to assume specific roles, providing a firsthand opportunity to delve deeper into treaty negotiations and advocate for indigenous treaty rights.

Under the expert guidance of treaty specialists, participants portrayed fictional entities, including an Indigenous Nation, the Yukon Government, and the Government of Canada, as they engaged in negotiations centered around a Wildlife Management Plan.

We are thrilled to highlight the participation of Dani Marcotte, a youth member of Selkirk First Nation, who took part in this remarkable simulation event in February 2023. Dani's involvement reflects our commitment to nurturing the next generation's understanding and involvement in treaty negotiations.

Dani shared her thoughts and experiences regarding the National Treaty Simulation.

Q: *What was your biggest takeaway from the National Treaty Simulation?*

Dani: My biggest takeaway from the conference was learning about the Treaty process and what our past leaders did to fight for our rights as Indigenous People.

Q: *How do you think initiatives like this can help create a better understanding of Indigenous treaties in Canada? Of our Final Agreements?*

Dani: I think it really teaches youth the process of how a Treaty is passed and the amount of time and dedication it really takes. Understanding what a Treaty is and how it ultimately affects our life as Indigenous People within Canada is something that will fuel their desire to keep pushing for our rights to practice our traditions and way of life.

Q: *Did this experience enrich your knowledge about the way our Self-Government Works?*

Dani: It truly did. Before this conference, my understanding of the process of a Treaty negotiation was very limited, and the importance it has for us as we go forward as a thriving Self-Government.

Q: *What advice would you give to young Indigenous people who are interested in learning more about treaties and negotiations?*

Dani: Don't be shy to branch out and seek that information. There are many dedicated and knowledgeable people waiting for you to ask questions and learn about this.

Q: *What benefits do you see for the future of our Self-Government by sending SFN youth to this event annually?*

Dani: The depth of knowledge the youth will come home with will no doubt inspire them to keep learning and contributing to our Nation.

Q: *What would you say to encourage other youth who are thinking about going but unsure?*

Dani: GO! Not only was the conference informative, inspiring, and powerful, but the people I met were wonderful, and I was able to gain a few new friends and travel to a new city!

With initiatives like the National Treaty Simulation, Indigenous youth gain a deeper understanding of treaties and Self-Governing First Nations' rights. These hands-on experiences empower them with knowledge about the treaty process, fueling their desire to advocate for their rights and traditions. Selkirk First Nation's annual participation enriches their knowledge, inspiring active contributions to their Self-Government. Encouraging other youth to attend allows them to discover, connect, and be inspired by the conference.

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Youth - Our Future Leaders Today cont

Youth Culture Camp

The Youth Culture Camp, hosted by Heritage and Culture, took place this past spring at Tlutsaw Lake, uniting our youth and Elders through immersive land-based activities and nurturing a highly valuable intergenerational connection. The primary objective of the camp is to pass down traditional teachings from Elders to youth in a practical, hands-on environment. At Tlutsaw Lake, a place of deep cultural significance for our Northern Tutchone people, Elders led activities and demonstrations aimed at teaching both genders essential skills for maintaining a traditional way of life.

We fondly remember the late Roger Alfred, our esteemed Traditional Knowledge Keeper for SFN, who played a significant role in the teachings of the Youth Culture Camp. His teachings and wisdom continue to resonate in the hearts of those who attended. Other honoured Elders who shared valuable skills and knowledge include Peter Isaac, Mary Alfred, Alyce Joe, Shirley Joe, Lizzie Hall, and Freda Alfred.

During the camp, Peter and Roger taught survival skills and Roger was keen to highlight why gatherings like this are so important. He explained that practicing our culture and passing on our knowledge is part of our “agreement and constitution... one day the youth will become Elders and they will have to responsibility of passing this



YOUTH CULTURE CAMP

on.” He added that Peter is teaching survival skills from things he experienced in his lifetime, some of those experiences were with his own Elders taught right there on Tlutsaw Lake.

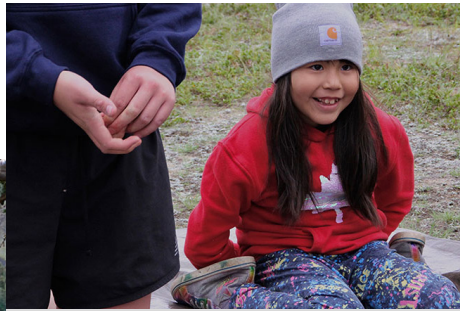
Over the years, the Heritage and Culture department has hosted many traditional knowledge events to pass on our way of life to current and younger generations. In addition to the Elders and Youth Camp, traditional knowledge gatherings also include the annual Aunties and Uncles retreats, and the Fall Hunting camp at Fort Selkirk or Lil Jon Slough. The teachings at these events cover a diverse range of subjects tailored to youth based on gender. For instance, girls would start by learning traditional crafts like beading and sewing, and later acquire essential kitchen skills. Conversely, boys would take on roles as laborers, learning outdoor skills, including wood cutting for fires, hunting, and fishing.

The Elders and Youth Camp is a powerful example of our Elders sharing their knowledge with youth, ensuring the preservation of these valuable skills for the next generation. Looking ahead, the Heritage department is committed to continuing the rich tradition of the Culture Camp. Keeping the Youth Culture camp as an annual event will continue to carry forward the vision and valuable teachings of our Elders.

Youth Gathering

DAY 1

Photos by Robert Joe



DAY 2

Photos by Robert Joe



DAY 3

Photos by Robert Joe



Elders – Our Knowledge Keepers

Youth & Elders Conference

The Selkirk First Nation recently hosted a gathering, bringing together the wisdom of our Elders and the promise of our youth in the Annual Elders and Youth Conference which was hosted by the Lands, Resources, and Heritage

Department. This conference served as a valuable platform for insightful discussions on a multitude of topics including traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, the environment, and the future of our Nation.

One of the memorable highlights of the conference was the address delivered by the late Roger Alfred. With deep knowledge and

appreciation for our history and heritage, he recounted the journey of our people from the transition of traditional ways to modern ways influenced by Europeans in the early 20th century. Roger's speech was enriched with the wealth of his Traditional Knowledge which he dedicated his life to preserving, sharing, and teaching. Roger felt strongly that we must return to



traditional practices as much as possible to honour our culture and land which will allow us to thrive as a Nation. He emphasized the pivotal role today's youth have in preserving our cultural legacy - today's youth will become the Elders of tomorrow.

Elder Lizzie Hall, echoed this sentiment, asserting that every youth is an "Elder in training." She underscored the invaluable importance of intergenerational bonding, encouraging for more

shared moments of tea, heartfelt conversations, knowledge exchange, and the value of just being in one another's company. Fluent in Northern Tutchone and affectionately known to some as Grandma Lizzie, she passionate advocate of spending quality time with our Elders to live and breathe the essence of our Northern Tutchone language.

This conference, while meant to be an annual event, encourages all

youth to spend as much time with our Elders no matter what the time of year or event. Their knowledge is sacred and our youth are the future knowledge keepers.

As we look forward to the future, we hope to further develop this new section in our newsletter dedicated to our Elders and the traditional knowledge they hold. Stay tuned for more insights, stories, and teachings from the wisdom.



Selkirk Superstars



FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO MLA: JEREMY HARPER'S STORY

An underdog's journey of transformation and triumph

Jeremy Harper, a proud member of the Selkirk First Nation (SFN), serves as the MLA for the Liberal Party in the Mayo-Tatchun electoral district, which includes our hometown, Pelly Crossing. Jeremy's journey is a testament to his remarkable transformation— from self-labeled “skinny kid” bullied by peers in his youth, to holding a seat on the SFN Council and ultimately ascending to the Yukon Legislative Assembly as an elected MLA.

If Jeremy's resume had a highlight reel, it may sell a narrative of a strong and influential community leader sprouted from a well-tended tree destined for success, as his accomplishments are many, and started at a young age. He has dedicated over two decades to the SFN recreation department, served on the board of Directors for Selkirk Development Corporation for 9 years, co-managed his local hockey team, coached Indigenous youth in swimming competitions at a National Level and garnered many athletic accomplishments of his own. In 2005, he was elected as Wolf Council for SFN and served for nearly 3 terms full terms. Additionally, he continues to serve as a Canadian Ranger.



JEREMY HARPER AND HIS
MOTHER ELLA JOY HARPER

Yet, his path to success was far from prescribed; rather, it's rooted in the resilience of an underdog who harnessed the pain and struggle from his past to forge a path toward a happier and healthier life. This is the journey of an outlier who defied the odds to become a beacon of inspiration for his community and anyone who has grappled with adversity.

From Hardship to Growth

Jeremy Harper's identity is tied to both our Northern Tutchone heritage and the unfortunate broader context of Indigenous

People's history in Canada marked by systemic racism. It is essential to acknowledge Canada's painful legacy of residential schools and the forcible separation of families to truly gain insight into his formative years.

Like many of his peers in the '80s and '90s, Jeremy was born into a racially divided country and carried the weight of intergenerational trauma as a second-generation survivor of residential school.

“

*From skinny
bullied kid to
MLA*

”

This trauma, shared by Indigenous populations across Canada, manifested in the form of eroded sense of identity, suffering, addiction, and consequently the loss of powerful matriarchs and family pillars that defined earlier generations. The social construct of indigenous families had been tactfully deconstructed through a decades long policy of assimilation enforced by the Canadian Government.

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Selkirk Superstars cont

Due to this legacy, Jeremy's family faced hardship. His great-grandmother, Ella Rose, and her brother, Tom Albert Jr., were forced into residential school, where her brother passed away during his attendance. Jeremy's mother, Ella Harper, also attended the now-demolished Yukon Hall residential school, enduring neglect and developing a deep distain to colonized educational systems. This trauma trickled down the generations, leading to Jeremy and his sister spending 5 years in foster care. This period brought emotional pain and suffering to the entire family, and Jeremy has no fond recollection of his time in foster care.

However, Jeremy was determined not to be defined by this experience. "I don't know how or why..." he explains as he tries to thoughtfully search for where he found the strength to turn his pain into strength, "there were many trials and tribulations growing up as a Northern Tutchone Native in the Yukon...but I was not going to let those hardships define who I am or how I am going to be held back."

Perhaps you might say that he tapped into the resilience also demonstrated by our ancestors and forbears during their times of struggle. Otherwise inexplicably, Jeremy's transformation sprouted from a steadfast conviction not to let past traumas anchor him to his past, but rather let them exist inside of him as life experience and be used

as an ignition for growth. It is not an easy process, he admits, it takes hard work, uncomfortable self-reflection, and ongoing forgiveness.

“
*Jeremy's unwavering
refusal to allow
pain and hardship
define his path.*” ”

Aligned with his principle of forgiveness, he strives to understand the struggles others have faced, the factors that influenced their behavior, and he employs empathy to practice growth and understanding. For instance, Jeremy acknowledges that his mother could not provide him the best childhood, yet he maintains a profound sense of love for her and gratitude for what she was able to provide considering the turbulent era of displacement she was raised in. He empathizes with what his mother lost and endured at the hands of systemic racism, which inevitably influenced his own troubled upbringing.

However, what remarkable trait Jeremy did inherit from his mother, is embodied by her middle name serving as a moniker for her personality – Joy. They have both faced their unique challenges, but even over the phone, you can hear a smile spread across Jeremy's face as he explains the enduring qualities

of lightheartedness and a happy disposition instilled in him by his mother, Ella Joy Harper. He will be forever grateful towards his mother for her unconditional love which gave him added strength to steer towards a better path.

Role Models

Jeremy's resolve was unwavering; but he firmly believed that his path to success would be a solitary journey, "I knew that If I was going to be successful in life, I was going to be the one to do it on my own." Yet, Jeremy understood doing it on his own did not imply solitude. Throughout his youth, he actively sought mentors and he was drawn to individuals who radiated strength and happiness. Observing their personalities closely, he curated a collection of role models, pulling inspiration their honourable traits.

In contrast, Jeremy recalls his years as a small "skinny" kid who was bullied by other more "popular" boys. He attended school in Whitehorse from grade 8-12. In grade 9 he joined the basketball team, but being smaller in size and lacking the resilience he would later, he was bullied off the team. Despite their bullying behavior, Jeremy observed how these characters were held on pedestals by others. This experience solidified his commitment to principles of humility and respect. Knowing that he was bound to be successful in life

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Selkirk Superstars cont

he vowed that he would never be a bully and would dedicate his life to being a positive motivator and striving to uplift those around him.

Eventually, it was Jeremy's early career in recreation which inadvertently cast him as a role model for the youth of Pelly Crossing. Realizing the profound impact of a healthy lifestyle on mental well-being, he worked in recreation for two decades to empower youth through active programs. Climbing the ranks to become the Recreation Director, he couldn't help but notice the disparities between the opportunities available to youth in Whitehorse and those in Pelly Crossing.

Driven by his desire to make a difference in the lives of young people, Jeremy became a passionate advocate for the youth in Pelly. He was determined to provide them with the opportunities he knew they rightfully deserved. However, he recognized his own limitations, having graduated from high school with barely a basic level of reading and writing, he applied himself to 2 years of college upgrading at Yukon College to improve his literary skills so he could better fulfill his role in recreation. This growth allowed Jeremy to set his sights on expanded horizons.

Jeremy Harper - Wolf Councillor

Recognizing that the youth are the future generation and leaders of our community, Jeremy believed they

deserved better opportunities, and he was inspired to run for Council. "I lead by example," he explains, describing his desire to be actively involved in grassroots change. He was elected to council and served for nearly three terms from 2005-2012, where he continued to advocate for policy changes aimed at creating improved recreational opportunities for youth.

Jeremy wants to highlight that decisions made by Council do not come from one person, but rather by consensus, and he always strived to seek consensus towards healthy change.

His dedication to making a positive impact soon extended to other issues including essential resources for citizens, such as clean water systems, training opportunities, increased job opportunities, and First Nation housing.

Looking back, Jeremy humbly acknowledges that he had a lot to learn during his early days on Council, "I didn't have all the smarts in my first term," he recalls. Nevertheless, he worked tirelessly to equip himself with the skills necessary to serve his fellow citizens. He knew that his power and responsibility as an elected official came from the people that elected him. He took immense pride and honour in that responsibility and wanted to demonstrate that his role could be carried out with honesty, integrity, and dedication. He also placed great importance on building

strong relationships with various organizations and companies across the Yukon, recognizing that these partnerships could benefit citizens in meaningful ways. His commitment was to champion his people and advocate for them.

Road to MLA

Jeremy's determination to create a more significant impact on his community propelled him to take the next step in his journey. In 2021, he made the decision to resign from his third term as Wolf Councillor to pursue a new path by running for the Yukon Legislative Assembly. His efforts paid off when he was elected for his first term as MLA on May 12th, 2021. Once he was elected as MLA, Jeremy resigned his position as Councillor in Pelly Crossing. In addition to the great achievement of being elected as MLA, Jeremy is the first Northern Tutchone native to be elected as Speaker of the House, where his responsibility is to chair the legislative assembly meetings. Jeremy humbly reflects on his past, "Some of my friends couldn't imagine where I am today based on my past life experiences." He adds, "When you meet me, you don't meet an individual who is angry, who is holding onto grudges, or who is hanging onto traumas of a past life."

Jeremy's story stands as a powerful testament to the resilience and determination that can drive personal transformation. He serves

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Selkirk Superstars cont

as an inspiration to anyone who has faced adversity, and he hopes that his story illustrates the potential to forge a path towards a happier and healthier life. “There is a positive life waiting for you if you

can overcome the difficulties that hold you back,” he acknowledges, recognizing that this journey is not without its challenges. “It’s a hard road,” he admits, recounting the many obstacles and frustrations

he encountered along the way. “It took a lot of jobs, meltdowns, and frustrations to achieve what I have, and there is still more room to grow. We’re never going to stop learning until the day we die.”

KAYLYN BAKER: FUSING TRADITION WITH INNOVATION

Kaylyn Baker, a Northern Tutchone and Tlingit artist and mother of three, is making waves in the world of art and fashion. Kaylyn innovatively merges traditional craftsmanship with contemporary style, establishing herself as a notable Indigenous artist and skilled fashion designer.

Her artistic journey began in 2014, crafting regalia for her daughter, which ignited a passion for mixed materials and textiles. She drew inspiration from her mother’s craftsmanship and from other artists and mentors, including the talented Heather Dickson, who introduced her to incorporating gems and quills into her beadwork.

It wasn’t long before she infused her own work with a sense of whimsy and unpredictability. Although her creations are rooted in tradition, they are far from conventional. Kaylyn’s unique designs explode with a kaleidoscope of colors, forming striking artistic statements that bridge the gap between the old and the new. However, her art is more than a visual feast; it’s a medium for



JADA JEROME WITH DESIGNER KAYLYN BAKER

storytelling.

One of her cornerstone art pieces is her “Rainestorm” logo, a design she crafted from the heart in 2016 to honor the memory of a beloved family member. This design led her on a path of emotive storytelling through her artwork. It was with this piece she realized she could encapsulate emotion and story through her art. She describes

her beading style as “beaded storytelling,” a poignant way to connect with her ancestral roots.

Kaylyn’s unique style has garnered a global following, making her one of our homegrown success stories. Her recent achievements include a two-year Canada Council grant and invitations to events like Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week, the Adäka Art Festival, and private exhibitions at the Yukon Arts Centre and in Dawson. Her designs have also graced the red carpet at the Emmy Awards.

Reflecting on her participation in Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week, Kaylyn recalls it as a leap of faith. “I saw the call for designers and just took a chance. Next thing I knew, I was selected to showcase my designs.” Baker chose Jada Jerome to model a piece inspired by her childhood nostalgia, weaving her early memories into her professional tapestry. The design, inspired by Baker’s childhood experiences of harvesting strawberries and selling them at the administration building,

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Selkirk Superstars cont



became a highlight on the runway, symbolizing both her personal journey and Jerome's evolution as a model. Alongside the display, Kaylyn shared a poem that delved into these cherished memories:

The wheel is a faint squeak & a crunch on the land

A bunch of elementary gatherers with cups in our hands I'm looking for the vine on the pavement

To show me the way then

I see one or two tiny white flowers & I know that I made it The cup becomes a drum very briefly

& I understand when I thought I'd fill a hundred cups I thought that very naively I can smell them light & sweet in the heat

While I only half-mourn the ones I crush with my feet My walk back is a day dream

What do I want at the store? Wash, mash, sugar, cream Then off to sell some more.

After years of dedication and ground-breaking work, Kaylyn exceptional talent and creative achievements have paved her way to becoming a finalist for the distinguished Yukon Prize for Visual Arts. In September 2023, she stood proud amongst the six other finalists, her visionary approach earning her this esteemed accolade. Her exhibition showcased six distinctive pieces, not only highlighting her unique craftsmanship but also paired with their own descriptive narratives. Some pieces were accompanied by stories or poems, enhancing the visual experience with literary depth, a testament to her ability to seamlessly blend craftsmanship, art, and design with storytelling. Her journey is marked by innovation,

patience, and people and stories that have inspired her creative journey.

Kaylyn Baker's work celebrates Indigenous culture, skillfully interwoven with contemporary art and fashion. In the future, she envisions crafting fresh collections that encapsulate the spirit of each season, ready for forthcoming exhibitions. Kaylyn hopes to participate in more fashion weeks in places like Toronto and Santa Fe, California. To be accepted, she must first prepare eight pieces ready to dazzle on the runway. To secure her place, she must diligently prepare eight captivating pieces to shine on the runway. Even while managing the intricate art of beading, composing grant proposals, and raising three children, her vision remains clear—to continue to innovate and establish a completely new clothing line.

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Selkirk Superstars cont

JADA JEROME

Jada Jerome is an SFN citizen, mother of three, and a model by trade.

She currently lives in Whitehorse, Yukon and traveled internationally for modeling. The genesis of her journey began with a single comment from Charlene Baker at a birthday party in Pelly Crossing in 2020.

"Oh look, the Pelly model is here!" Charlene proclaimed and made sure to say in front of everyone.. That one compliment germinated the thought of modeling in Jada's head but she was hesitant to commit, lacking the confidence. One day, she just took a chance.

1. Jada, How did you start modeling?

Jada: [I] started my model in 2020...I was actually at a birthday party in Pelly, Charlene Baker was like 'oh the Pelly model is here!' I thought maybe I should think about doing that.



JADA JEROME IN FRONT OF EIFFEL TOWER

In my later high school years and after I graduated, people and family members on facebook were telling

me I should get into modeling. I replied that's not my focus right now. It's something I didn't think I could do. Then I applied to the Numa Network. ... a few days later, they replied. Saying that they like my look and wanted to do a zoom call. From there they accepted my application and booked my first photo test shoot.

2. How would you describe the overall experience so far?

Jada: So far, it's been unreal. It's also very rewarding getting to travel internationally, it's something I thought I would never do. [I] pictured small photo shoots, but not walking a runway! Embracing body positivity, no matter your weight, height, skin color, it's something everybody can do! You just have to believe in yourself. Confidence will allow you to do great things. I still get nervous.

What helps me with my nerves before I go on, I stand still, and just breathe. Imagine roots coming out of my feet and into the ground like a tree and just grounding me. Connecting with my ancestors from the other side. I'm a strong believer in spirit world. Whenever I'm stuck or feel like I can't do something, I pray to my Grandmothers and Grandfathers, I ask them for strength and guidance in that moment.

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Selkirk Superstars cont



3. *What have been some of your biggest challenges? Hurdles, overthinking...*

Jada: I overthink a lot. Overthinking pushes me to do it. I know I can do it and I'm capable, it's just the voice, the "Bruno" [reference to Encanto] inside your head. There were a few times where I was like 'I'm not doing' but I just kept going.

4. *What did your kids have to say about their mom being a model and traveling the world?*

Jada: They were so excited, they couldn't believe it. They were always asking me questions. "Mommy, you're a queen?" When they saw my crown competition in Edmonton, they were like "Mommy, you won this?" I was in the Up Here Magazine in the Extra-Ordinary column; they thought it was the coolest thing ever. Alena couldn't stop looking at the magazine, like "wow." Isla, my youngest, said "Wow, Mommy



so beautiful." Emery looked at the magazine, he flipped to the page and was like "Hey Mommy, that's you!" They were so proud.

5. *What was it like to win a competition in Edmonton?*

Jada: In Edmonton competing against 25 other women. Stand in front of 250 people. Designer/judge Natasha Peter along with five other

judges were in the crowd, "had to tell them about ourselves and why we wanted to go to New York, dreams and aspirations. Until the moment I had to go on the stage, I had no idea what I was going to say. It just came out the way it was supposed. The designer and the judges really like my speech.

Jada must've said the right things because shortly after that, she was off to New York, one of the largest fashion capitals in the world. Jada was somewhere she never thought she would be; with plenty of sights to see, celebrities walking up and down the streets, or having lunch nearby.



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Selkirk Superstars cont



Being a rockstar citizen in a small community means being a valued member who inspires others and contributes to the community in a positive way. This might include a citizen who actively enriches the community by demonstrating leadership or perhaps someone who ventures off into the world to explore, push boundaries, and learn new skills.

While there are different paths to becoming an inspiration, the measuring stick for a rockstar citizen is not one-size-fits-all, and can come in many sizes, even tiny tot size!

Meet Skylar Joe, a big little personality who contributes positively to our community. She measures just three feet off the ground - well actually, 3 feet and 2 inches if you count the ponytail that sometimes pokes up like a plant reaching for sunlight.

Skylar has been learning and practicing her Northern Tutchone



SKYLAR JOE

traditional ways through sharing, caring, respect, and teaching. Some of her admirable achievements include, saying the ABC's, naming her body parts, counting, and naming colors – all in her Northern Tutchone language.

Known for being outgoing and bubbly, Skylar is also kind-hearted and respectful to those around her. She can often be seen at community events where she will make an appearance to check out the activities and greet everyone with a smile and a warm “Hi Auntie! Hi Grandma!”. Her use of the affectionate terms ‘auntie’, ‘uncle’, ‘grandma’ or ‘grandpa’ for all adults is reminiscent of the traditional of ways our Elders.

The family cabin and fish camp are Skylar's favorite places to be, where she likely has ample opportunity to indulge in her culture and language with mom, Kala Joe, and other family members.

Elder Lizzie Hall will often state that the journey to becoming an Elder begins as a small child as soon as you take your very first steps. She will emphasize that she herself has “been learning to be Elder since I was this high” as she gestures with her hand raised only a few feet off the ground. Skylar is the embodiment of Lizzie's statement. She is a shining example of positive contribution to our community. By learning, practicing, and sharing her traditional knowledge, her achievements at just three years old are truly inspiring and motivating.

News and Events

35th Annual Handgame Championships



At the 35th Annual Handgames Championship held in Burwash, the Selkirk WolfPack secured the first-place spot in the Adults Division, while the “Soup & Bannock” team took the top position in the Youth Division. Additionally, a Dustball Tournament featured the Chiefs take 4th place in the men’s lower division, adding to the excitement of the event.

Thanking our Teachers at EVB

This past Summer, members of SFN gathered to celebrate our departing teachers for the 2022/2023 school year. To honour their valuable contributions to our school and our students, they were celebrated with Dinner, gifts, and celebratory drumming.

For the 2023/2024 school year, we offer a warm welcome to our new and returning staff of EVB:

1. Principal Mary Shkimba
2. Teacher gr 6-7 - David Gillis
3. EAS:
 - Kim Joe
 - Kirsten Silas
 - Shandal Sam
 - Amber Kinney
4. Receptionist - Claire Bedford
5. SFN Education Support Worker - Julia Joe
6. Custodians - Ryan Silverfox, Agnes McGinty

New staff:

7. Eileen Melnychuk - gr 1-3
8. Ruth Ferguson - Grade 4-5
9. Sub for K-4/5 - Jo Andrews
10. P.E teacher - k4-gr12 - Keith Andrews
11. High School teacher - Yvonne Curic
12. SFN Education Support 2 - Charlene Baker Holland

We’re thrilled to have you as a part of our community and look forward to a successful and enriching school year together!

Council Recognizes Future Leaders

Eliza VanBibber students also celebrated the end of the school year with an awards ceremony. Among the accolades, SFN awarded Ranon Sawyer and Brianna Albert for their outstanding leadership. The recognition highlights their positive impact and serves as inspiration for their future endeavors. Congratulations to all the accomplished students at Eliza VanBibber!



BOTTOM LEFT: EVB STUDENT AWARD CEREMONY,
TOP AND RIGHT: CELEBRATING DEPARTING TEACHERS

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News and Events cont

Family Halloween Party

The Child and Family Support Services team has been working continuously to ensure that seasonal fun family events are available for our community. This year, they organized a “5 Days of Halloween” Celebration, featuring enjoyable family activities every evening. Activities were only canceled in the event of staff shortages (and if you’d like to contribute as a volunteer, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your wellness team).

As the highlight of this year’s spooky festivities, the Family Resource Unit from the Child Development Centre in Whitehorse collaborated with Child & Family Support Services in Pelly Crossing to host the Family Halloween Party.

Yoko, a Family Resource Worker from Whitehorse, along with Janelle Hager, Kala Joe, and Natasha Silas from SFN, were on hand to support the main event, which saw the participation of several parents with their children.

The event featured creative activities such as painting, coloring, slime-making, coordination games, and a charming photo booth for parents to capture memorable moments with their children.

Delightful snacks were available, including pigs in a blanket, curly fries, a fun “dirt and worms” treat, along with healthy snack options.

In addition to these festivities, there was a pumpkin carving contest, evaluated via social media, and an exciting costume contest.

Long Service Awards

The Human Resources department is pleased to announce the presentation of the Long Service Awards, recognizing our colleagues for their continuous commitment to SFN. This year’s ceremony was particularly meaningful as it celebrated contributions from as far back as 2019, after a pause due to the pandemic.

Congratulations to all recipients. Your dedication has played a significant role in the progress and solidarity of our organization. We thank you for your service and look forward to continuing our productive partnership. Here’s to many more years of shared success and collaboration!

2019 Awards

Teri-Lee Isaac - 5 years
Elaine Alfred - 5 years
Valerie Staub - 15 years
Mario Menzi - 20 years

2020 Awards

Benny Joe – 5 years
Maryanne Sam – 5 years
Allen Joe – 5 years
Judy Chen - 5 years
Matthew Fairclough - 10 years
Lena Joe - 15 years
Edward Tom Tom - 15 years
Jeremy Harper - 15 years
Milly Johnson - 30 years
Betty Baptiste - 30 years

2021 Awards

Carmen Baker - 5 years
Cindy McGinty - 5 years



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News and Events cont

Tara Roberts - 5 years

Darin Isaac - 15 years

Dean Gill - 15 years

2022 Awards

Bernice Johnny - 5 years

Maizie Profeit - 5 years

Diana Dawson - 5 years

Frederick Johnnie - 15 years

Ashley Edzerza - 15 years

Darren Johnnie - 15 years

Roger Alfred - 20 years

Sharon Nelson - 20 years

Julia Joe - 25 years

Lucy McGinty - 30 years

Mona Silverfox - 30 years

2023 Awards

Jerry Alfred - 30 years

Jerlene Joe - 25 years

Richard Sims - 15 years

Darcy Marcotte - 15 years

Lori Sims - 15 years

Cody Sims - 5 years

Sharon Morrison - 5 years

Kevin McGinty - 5 years

Lois Joe - 5 years

Sue Bradley - 5 years

Kimberly Joe - 1 year



Mini Winter Carnival



News and Events cont

Mother's Day



Selkirk Development Corporation 30th Year Celebration



News and Events cont

Selkirk First Nation Indigenous Day Celebration



Aunties Retreat

photos submitted by Sharon Nelson



Department Updates

GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT

The Governance Department is responsible for Enrollment, Communications, Elections, Negotiations, General Assemblies, Committees, Policy and Legislative Development, Data Management, Family Heads and Elders Council.

Working in the Governance Department are Jerry Alfred, SFN's Citizen Enrollment Officer, Darcie Profeit, as Communications Officer and Maureen McGinty as the Youth Coordinator. Lois Joe is the Justice Coordinator and Dani Marcotte has recently been hired as the Implementation Manager and Diana Dawson as the Governance Director.

The most recent addition to the team is the Communications Officer, Darcie Profeit. Darcie has been extremely busy working towards the launch of Selkirk First Nation's new website, targeted for this winter, and responding to all SFN's communications needs, including internal and external communications on various platforms. Darcie hopes to showcase our community in a positive way and she looks forward to hearing from citizens as the improvements go forward.

Recently, Darcie met with the

Youth Committee to receive recommendations regarding the kinds of communication platforms the youth committee would like to see being used by our government to meet the youth's needs. The Youth identified several ideas for Darcie to focus on including youth achievement and youth concerns that can be addressed using communication tools. Having Darcie on board filling this key position will certainly be appreciated by the youth and all our Citizens.

Currently, Dani Marcotte is serving as the Implementation Manager. She has been a valuable addition to the Governance team since joining in the fall of 2022. Dani recently completed her training as an Indian Registration Administrator for Canada, which means she is authorized to issue Canada's status cards. Dani has been mentoring under our favorite Enrollment Officer, Jerry Alfred, learning to process status card applications, renewals and replacements. This service is much appreciated by Citizens.

Lois Joe is SFN's Justice Coordinator. Lois had been working with the Justice Committee towards the establishment of a Justice Council. She also provides Court Worker services to SFN Citizens that require support to navigate the court system. With over 25 years of experience as a Court Worker, Lois is an important

part of the Governance team and provides extensive knowledge and insights on programs and services that are needed for SFN's Justice Program to be successful.

Diana Dawson is the Governance Director. She joined the Governance Department in 2017 and is also an Indian Registration Administrator for Canada's Indian identification program. In her previous role as Implementation Manager, she gained valuable knowledge from working with the Family Heads and Elders Council, Council and most Committees and looks forward to working with governance team. Until recently, Maureen McGinty was our Youth Coordinator but has since moved on to pursue higher education and is now a nursing student at Yukon University. Good Luck Maureen!

Exciting News for Our Community - New Website on the Horizon!

We've heard your frustrations (and felt them too) and we're thrilled to announce that a brand-new website is in the works! Say goodbye to the old, clunky site that has been causing us headaches with frequent crashes, limited file uploads, and a few pesky bugs here and there.

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Department Updates cont



Moving forward, we've partnered with the reputable website experts at "Vincent Design" to transform our online presence. Not only will they be revamping our website, but they'll also be giving our logo a fresh update while preserving its heritage aspects.

What can you expect from this exciting transformation? Our new website will be incredibly user-friendly, catering to audiences in the following hierarchy:

1. **Citizens:** The website will be your go-to hub for all the resources you need. Downloadable and fillable forms, a social calendar, and easy updates are just the beginning.
2. **Staff:** Streamlined access to essential information, guiding documents and resources, and private access to work policies.
3. **People Outside Our**

Community: For those seeking information, contacts, permits, or anything else related to our community, they will find it here. There will also be information on our community and heritage for those seeking to learn more.

We're not stopping there! To enhance user-friendliness for our citizens, we're departing from the old department layout and putting resources front and center. This means you'll have quicker access to updated news and resources.

Stay tuned for more updates. Our Communications team is working to collect all the website content. Meanwhile, "Vincent Design" will be hard at work on our logo, allowing for two rounds of revisions to ensure it perfectly represents our community.

Exciting times are ahead, and we can't wait to unveil our new and improved website for you, our amazing citizens! Thank you for your patience and support as we make these important upgrades.

Selkirk First Nation Enrollment Office

The Enrollment office has been very busy processing new enrollment applications and thought we would put out a short article to answer some commonly asked questions on Selkirk First Nation Enrollment and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's (CIRNAC) Indian Status registration (Status Card).

If I am registered with Canada as a Status Indian under Selkirk First Nation, am I automatically a SFN Citizen and enrolled under the SFN Final Agreement?

No. The two are entirely different registrations.

CIRNAC owns and controls the Status Indian Registry. SFN's Enrollment Officer is trained by CIRNAC to process applications and cards on their behalf. Eligibility criteria to obtain Indian Status registration are created and controlled by CIRNAC.

SFN owns and controls the SFN Enrollment and Citizenship Registry. This enrollment is voluntary. There is an application process and eligibility criteria set out in the

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Department Updates cont

SFN Final Agreement and the SFN Constitution.

What is the difference between having Status with Canada and being enrolled as a Citizen of Selkirk First Nation?

Canada's Status Registry: Registration is required for Status Indians to access Canada's programs and services. For example, the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, including medical travel, prescription drugs, dental and vision care. The Enrollment Office can assist you if you wish to apply for Canada's Status Indian card.

SFN's Enrollment and Citizenship Registry:

To be eligible for enrollment as a Beneficiary under the SFN Final Agreement, a person must meet the criteria set out in Chapter 3 of the

SFN Final Agreement and must also meet the requirements for Citizenship under the SFN Constitution.

When a person is enrolled with SFN, they become a Beneficiary under the SFN Final Agreement and become a Citizen under the SFN Constitution. Once enrolled as a Beneficiary and Citizen, your rights include, access to use and occupy SFN land, a right to participate in the benefits and opportunities arising under the Final and Self Government Agreements, to support and participate in the governing institutions of SFN, to vote in Elections, to have a voice and vote at an Assembly, to hold office in a governing institution of SFN and so on. Please see section 5.0 of the SFN Constitution for the complete text.

Who decides on enrollment with SFN?

There is a SFN Citizenship Committee, as per the SFN Constitution, that reviews the applications and makes recommendations to Council for approval or disapproval. Council makes the final decision on the advice and recommendations of the Citizenship Committee.

Who is on the Citizenship Committee?

The Committee has five members. Three Elders are appointed by the Elders Council, and two SFN Citizens are selected by Council.

Who do I contact to discuss applying for Enrollment?

Enrollment Officer – Jerry Alfred
867-537-3331. Ext. 265
alfredjerry@selkirkfn.com



**If you have moved recently,
please contact the Enrollment office
to update your address
in the SFN Enrollment Database.**

It is important to keep your address updated to ensure you receive important information from time to time."

Contact Enrollment Officer - Jerry Alfred
867-537-3331. Ext. 265
alfredjerry@selkirkfn.com

Department Updates cont

WELLNESS DEPARTMENT



The Wellness Department is currently undergoing a re-structure to better meet the needs of the community.

Health Services

- Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) travel applications take up much of our time with providing support to clients who need to fill out the paper-work, provide Pos for travel and follow up for re-imbursement. We ask that family members take a more active role in helping with this process to make sure that it is as smooth as possible for everyone involved.
- The current re-structure is looking to make NIHB application, travel, and re-imbursement more efficient and user-friendly for SFN staff and citizens.
- Responding to emergencies is an on-going process that is

addressed on a case-by-case basis. Cases include medevac to BC or WGH, and we are sad to say that we have lost a few Elders due to medical issues.

- We had some members attending the Cedar Treatment Program in the south, and all have completed the program, and we would like to congratulate them on their accomplishment. We will continue with in-takes and will schedule them when dates become available.
- The Wellness staff did a week training with Dr. Darien Thira on Trauma Training and review of childhood trauma. It is a life's journey to address the self-healing of old wounds.
- We have 3 home care workers who provide basic cleaning twice a week and cover the needs of Elders. We ask that family members assist with their elderly relatives to keep their homes clean and to check in on them regularly.



- We have future plans to budget and coordinate for the Tat'lamun Lake Cultural Program which will happen in February/March 2024
- Chad Nichol is a counsellor who visits the community every Tuesday and Thursday. You must call ahead to make an appointment with him. SFN has also recently hired Corry Rusnak, who now offers counselling services to citizens of Pelly Crossing.
- **We ask that you continue to be aware of the risks with Covid and the Flu. Consider whether the vaccine is right choice for you and your family.**

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Holistic healer Monika Seputh comes once a month and is available at the Wellness House.

Appointments must be made in advance as well.



Department Updates cont



Truth and Reconciliation Programs

- Orange t-shirts were printed and distributed for events planned on MMIWG and remains found. A circle fire ceremony and storytelling were held.
- Indian Day School prayer blanket was sewn by 3 Elders and a young woman. Our programs supplied materials and presented to Council.
- We oversee contribution agreements: Indian Residential School (IRS), Indian Day School (IDS), Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), Mental Health Counselling – CYFN, and Canadian Mental Health Services (CMHS)
- Support former students and families with clinical therapy or hospice counselling and all arrangements required.

Child and Family Support Services

Currently running a drum-making workshop

Looking to run a parka-making workshop

Would like to collaborate with Yukon University on an initiative for Every Child Matters.

- This program has been working on holiday events throughout the year – Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas

- The majority of our time is dedicated to providing support for Children and Families working with the social worker who comes to Pelly Crossing. Our priority is the safety and well-being of SFN children.
- The current department re-structure will address this mandate so that we can provide services to SFN children and families.



Department Updates cont

MINERAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Mineral Resources Department was formed in April of 2022 due to increased mining activity on Selkirk First Nation Traditional Territory. The staff are working to provide input into major mine projects such as Coffee Creek, Casino Mine and Minto Mine, as well as monitoring the mine clean-up project in Faro.

The director of the new department is Kevin McGinty, who has the prior pertinent experience as the Mining Manager of Land, Resources and Heritage Department since 2018. Keyshawn Sawyer was hired as the Mining Steward in April, however he moved into council recently as the youth Councillor. The Mining Steward position ensures that mining operations on Selkirk Traditional Territory are within applicable legislation and provides input related to natural resource management. In July, 2022, Tanya Harrison was hired as the Assessment Office. Tanya's position identifies environmental and socio-economic effects on proposed mining projects within or affecting Selkirk Traditional Territory, and provides comments and recommendations on the Yukon Government site and the YESAB registry.

"I'm enjoying living and working in Pelly. I love learning about the land, and I hope to make a difference by



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Department Updates cont



commenting on important issues through the YESAB registry”, said Tanya about her new role with Selkirk First Nation.

Minto Household Survey

Household surveys went well. We worked in the late summer and early fall conducting the second phase of the Minto Household Survey. Thank you to everyone that participated.

Casino Mine

The Casino Mine Panel Review (YESAB) began early in the new year. It is the first project in the Yukon to

require a panel review as it is such a large-scale project in a remote area of the Yukon. This requires many design and engineering challenges.

We continue to work with Council on these various mining files and keep them updated as files progress. We are now preparing to engage with the community about the projects that are occurring on Selkirk’s Traditional Territory. On Nov 29th Newmont provided a community engagement presentation to inform citizens of the mining work being done near Coffee Creek. On April 27th we also had a community meeting on the New Mining Legislation work in the

Yukon. Community meetings are also planned for Faro, Newmont, and Casino within the coming months.

New Positions

We are hoping to expand and hire additional staff in the very near future. Any citizen interested in joining the team should keep an eye out for job postings as new positions are coming soon.

Citizens can expect more community engagements to come in the new year – watch for postings.

Department Updates cont

LAND, RESOURCES, AND HERITAGE DEPARTMENT

Summer of 2023 was full of activity with many programs and events, here are the highlights:

May Gathering Celebrated Culture

Although May Gathering was postponed to June, it was a successful event co-ordinated by our Heritage Director Teri-Lee Isaac. Our community came together to celebrate our culture and heritage and we had many visitors from our neighbouring Northern Tutchone communities. The third day of the event was held in honor of the late Roger Alfred, a beloved member of our community and our Traditional Knowledge keeper whose legacy and life's work will to inspire us all. We were grateful to everyone who attended, participated in cultural activities, and made this event memorable.

There were many other cultural events organized by this department, including the Aunties' Retreat which can be viewed by photo collage in the "Events." section of this newsletter.

Wood Lots - Update

Unfortunately, the wood lots did not look promising for the upcoming season. However, we opened discussion with Council to find a short-term resolution to

ensure that wood would be available when needed. We understand the importance of wood for our community, and we remain committed to finding solutions.

Mushroom Pickers and Forestry Update

Mushroom pickers had arrived in our area, and we had been collaborating with CMI and forestry to address this influx. We looked into respectful practices and solutions in hopes to ensure responsible mushroom picking, and respect for our traditional territory. Dale Bradley, who monitored mushroom activity for forestry, provided the following update: "As of Wednesday, June 28th, there were 16 pickers at the farm. Some did not pick every day due to the challenging terrain. Garbage bins were provided, and the mushroom buyer helped manage their waste. We also successfully kept pickers out of the burn behind Fort Selkirk."

Welcoming New Team Members

This past summer we introduced several new additions to our department and we looked forward to their contributions!

- **Shannon Morrison:** Cultural Coordinator

- **George Magrum, Leslie Johnson, Amanda Sam, and Dana Joe:** We welcomed them to the Language Program team!
- **Shaheen Baker** – Big Johnathan House Coordinator
- **Caroline Silas** – Big Johnathan House Interpreter
- **Azilee Smith, Mariah Grennan** – Youth workers (Big Johnathan House)

No Salmon Harvest This Year

Unfortunately, the salmon numbers this past year brought more disappointing news. Due to low numbers, we abstained from our yearly salmon harvest adhering to a salmon ban alongside many of our First Nations neighbours. We understand the significance of this tradition for our community, and we provided further details as new data comes in.

SFN Pelly Chinook Sonar in Action

The Pelly Sonar-training camp kicked off this summer. In July and we were thrilled to announce that the sonar was in operation. We encouraged everyone to keep an eye out for the results of the SFN Pelly

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Department Updates cont

Chinook Sonar program, which provided valuable data about the Chinook salmon population in our rivers. On July 10th, we recorded our first Chinook passing by. If you were on the river, we hoped you stopped by for a visit and witnessed this crucial work in action.

Salmon Stewardship and YFNSSA

The Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliances (YFNSSA) was established in 2004 to support Indigenous groups as they developed, grew, and maintained salmon-related departments. The YFNSSA was facilitated by CYFN and supported Alsek, Yukon, and Porcupine River salmon. This alliance offered an opportunity for core funding to support collaborative First Nation participation and priorities related to Yukon salmon. While all First



Nations that signed onto this agreement collaborated and made decisions on funding utilization, SFN had been an observer within this working group.

Big Johnathon Heritage Center:

Shaheen Baker, was hired on as the new coordinator for the Big Jonathan House, where she proudly shared culture and knowledge with travelers all over the world. The season started with an Open House



on June 7th, with a great turn out. The Big Johnathon House has some new display cases to show off our talented local art work which were a hit with the tourists. The cultural museum saw an average of seven to fifteen tourists a day.

Thank you for taking the time to catch up on the latest highlights from the Lands, Resources and Heritage Department. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of our staff.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LANGUAGE CENTER

"Dzenu sóthän tl'achīdo!"

Meet the Language Team

The language team consists of April Baker, Language Coordinator, Zina McGinty, Language Assistant, Amanda Sam, Language Learners, Dayna Joe, George Magrum, Kindra Stewart, and Leslie Johnson.

Speakers on-call: Alyce Joe, Lizzie Hall, Mary Alfred, Shirley Joe. We are always seeking speakers help and

support. Speakers please reach out to us. WE NEED MENTORS!

The Language Center is at the Old Community Hall and we have an open door policy, please do not hesitate to stop by! 9 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm Monday to Friday. Sometimes we are out on the land, at a cultural event or YNLC event. Call me at (867) 335-1692

Exciting news for our Dictionary

The online dictionary is now in beta form! This is very exciting news and a launching date will be released in the future. This has been a long process with some technical issues that needed to be worked out. The language team are now recording the audio for the online dictionary.

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Department Updates cont

New Publications

The Robert Munsch books are almost complete, exciting! Launch date TBD. Three Early Childhood books were complete and more to come! SFN Duniyána ra will receive 100 of each to give out.

Shirley Joe Receives Recognition

[photos: Shirly and Peter, Shirley and April, Shirley speech]

Congratulations to Shirley Joe who received Recognition at The Yukon Native Language Centre Fluent Speaker Recognition and Graduation Ceremony on June 9th, 2023 at Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. The award honoured Shirley for her lifelong dedication to the Northern Tutchone language and becoming a fluent speaker



SHIRLEY JOE AND
CYFN GRAND CHIEF
PETER JOHNSTON

Congratulate to all graduates of the language program including two SFN graduates: Sherri Lafreniere and Tahyah VanBibber.

Language Knowledge

Spell Mussi as Mähsī

During April's continuous research and work with our traditional language, she stumbled upon a small phonetic revelation. April discovered that "mussi" should be spelled "mähsī" due to the phonetic pronunciation of our Northern Tutchone alphabet, and backed by texts prepared by some of our Elders.

In a recent email to SFN staff, April explained that in our Northern Tutchone alphabet, the letter "u" is pronounced as "ooo," leading to the pronunciation of "Mussi" as "Mooossi." In our Northern

Tutchone alphabet, we use "ä" to represent the "uh" sound, making "Mussi" more appropriately spelled as "Mähsī." April suspects that the spelling "Mussi" may have been influenced by the phonetic characteristics of the English alphabet.

To further support this discovery, April observed that in the late Rachel Tom Tom's book "Northern Tutchone Language Lessons, Pelly Crossing Dialect - recorded by Rachel Tom Tom. In This book, the term is also spelled "másin". So it depends on how you say it - Másin and mähsī are both correct spelling and pronunciation according to our NT alphabet. She adds that in our language, there are multiple ways to say thank you so either way you chose is acceptable.



SHIRLEY'S SPEECH



SHIRLEY JOE AND APRIL BAKER

Department Updates cont

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Greetings from the HR Department

The Human Resources Department is one of SFN's busiest departments and is responsible for managing every aspect of the employment process. The HR Department consists of Director, Betty Baptiste, Recruitment Officer, Annette Albert and Human Resource Officer, Rhona Edwards.

SFN Recruitment: Hiring Process Explained

The Human Resources Department would like share an overview of SFN's recruitment procedure to clarify the steps for current and potential employees. This method is designed to guarantee a fair and appropriate selection of candidates.

Recruitment Process

Scope: Applies to all positions within SFN, with the exception of the Director positions

Purpose: To create a consistent, fair, and transparent recruitment process for hiring staff, and to establish the role of departments in the hiring process.

Policy: SFN Directors are responsible for ensuring all SFN recruitment activities are conducted

fairly, consistently, and in accordance with this policy.

Employment opportunities shall be open to all qualified applicants based on their knowledge, skills, abilities, and personal suitability.

Employment equity standards will be in effect on all competitions as outlined in the Employment Equity Act.

Employees may be promoted on an underfill basis provided that completion of an education and/or training plan is a condition of employment.

Alternate list - a list of alternates may be created for the seasonal postings known as the Garden Project, Beautification/Riverfront Project and the On the Land Project. These lists can be used to draw from if employees quit or are terminated during the season. These alternate lists can be used for the first three months of the project. If a vacancy occurs after the first 3 months, the vacancy will be posted.

Procedure

Posting for Competitions - All employment opportunities that are of a Permanent or Term nature will be posted for two (2) weeks. **Casual positions will be posted at a minimum of one (1) week.** If the position is urgent, HR and Director

of the relevant department may choose a person from the auxiliary listing for a maximum of thirty (30) working days to temporarily fill the position until the recruitment has occurred. If the interview has not been conducted, you may extend for a maximum of 10 working days.

Notice will be posted at the SFN Administration Building and Post Office in Pelly Crossing, on the Selkirk Facebook page, Selkirk website and other employment agencies as required

Recruitment Committee – HR will establish a Recruitment Committee consisting of HR and one (1) or two (2) directors or managers to screen and interview the qualified candidates, and score the interviews using the agreed upon weighting process.

Screening - All applications will be screened by the Recruitment Committee to determine which applicants are qualified to interview.

Underfill - A candidate may be offered a position as an underfill if they have the basic qualifications for the position and there are no other qualified applicants. The supervisor may recommend that the department underfill the position. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to develop an education and training plan for this individual, which clearly

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Department Updates cont

shows benchmarks to becoming qualified for the position, it must have timelines attached. If the employee is hired as an underfill, the wage will be determined by the supervisor and the Human Resource Manager based on the skills and experience of the individual.

Certified Criminal Record Check -

A certified criminal record check is mandatory for applicants applying to work with children, youth under the age of eighteen (18) years, or vulnerable persons. Certified criminal record checks will also be required for any position when applying in the Finance Department

and for all Directors and Managers. A certified criminal record check may also be requested for positions other than those listed above at the discretion of the hiring Director. The cost to produce a criminal records check is the responsibility of the applicant.

Reference Checks - In the case of transfer or promotion, the employee's personnel file will be reviewed to satisfy the reference check requirement. For desirable applicants, the Human Resource Manager will conduct the appropriate reference checks and confirm such information as the

level of education completed, special courses, work experience, suitability for the position, and any other applicable information.

Employment Agreement - Once the interview process is completed and the required references checks have been completed by the Human Resource Manager, an Employment Agreement signed by the applicable Director shall be provided to the successful applicant. The Human Resource Manager will present the Employment Agreement to the successful applicant.

Department Updates cont

CITIZEN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW

The Citizen Development Department has three main focuses:

1. Education from K5 to Grade 12

The K-12 Education Program ensures students learn about making healthy life choices, while being immersed in activities and outings that promote Northern Tutchone language and culture. The Citizen Development Education staff manage the programs and services for kindergarten to Grade 12. We collaborate with both local and territorial education departments, as well as Eliza VanBibber School staff.

2. Post-secondary Education and Training for Citizens

The Citizen Development department administers funding for post-secondary studies and training by offering services to citizens including:

- Assist with applications
- Provide information on job trainings

- Supply information on courses available locally and elsewhere
- Provide advice on career direction and education choices

3. Early Childhood Development

The Centre is licensed for 18 children from ages 12 months to 8 years of age. Childcare service is offered year-round. The program is separated into 3 groups to help focus on the children's developmental needs:

- Group 1 - ages 12 months to 3 years of age.
- Group 2 - ages 3 to 5 years of age.
- Group 3 - ages 6 to 8 years of age.

The Centre has 5 childcare educators. The Centre works in collaboration with other partnerships and agencies in early childhood, as well as the ELCC training with Yukon University to gain their levels as certified Early Childcare Educators.

Citizen Development as a Whole

Supporting the education of every SFN citizen is a key part of our government's mandate.

Every day, we work to build a better community by supporting the needs and aspirations of SFN citizens.

The foundation of all our hard work is lifelong education & training. We are all learners. The Director of Citizen Development, Tara Roberts is responsible for the management, administration and execution of educational services, training programs, and employment for Selkirk First Nation citizens. The staff work hard to ensure our programs and services have the best interests of SFN citizens.

Education and training are the strategic priorities of the Selkirk First Nation Government. Our mandate at Citizen Development includes oversight and supervision over a variety of community capacity development programs, services, initiatives, and partnerships with various organizations.

Partnerships are fundamental to building a stronger community, as well as recognizing local needs, interests, to provide better solutions.

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Department Updates cont

OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OVERSEE PROVIDES SUPPORT TO THE FOLLOWING:

Post-Secondary, ISETS and Community Training Funding

Qualification

You must be a registered Selkirk First Nation Beneficiary, and you can be employed or unemployed. A copy of your enrollment J number must be provided with your application.

How To Apply

You can apply in person or contact us by e-mail at pseofficer@selkirkfn.com. For information, please contact our office. You will be notified within 10 days whether your application has been approved or denied.

Applicants Are Also Required to Provide

- Application form for Selkirk First Nation Post-Secondary Education or Application Form for Community
- Training.
- Enrollment J number.
- A letter of acceptance from your education institution.
- Most recent transcripts attached to application if you're a continuing student.
- Course outline; and

- Your personal information is needed; all files are kept confidential.

Post-Secondary Student Support

Provides financial support and case management to eligible post-secondary students and is subject to the availability of funds. SFN recognizes that students follow different paths to complete their education and expects students to commit to their post-secondary studies and achieve their goals.

The Citizen Development department and/or Guidance Counselor at EVB can assist with career counselling and is made available to help students that are unsure about the field they want to pursue. We can also provide information about different post-secondary options, help with applications, and help you plan to achieve your goals.

Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ISETS)

This funding program supports unemployed citizens or members of the YFN who reside in the Yukon and all other Aboriginal persons and members of other First Nations with the costs of programs, services and other activities which are designed to increase the participation in the Canadian labour market.

Employment Services

Working one-on-one with Selkirk citizens in the areas of career planning, employment-related

training, development of action plans, and job readiness training. Assists citizens with accessing funding and opportunities related to employment, education, and training.

Post-Secondary Student Summer Employment

Provides seasonal scheduled community employment to two post-Secondary students of Selkirk.

Youth Summer Employment

Provides seasonally scheduled community employment to 12 SFN youth. Recreation: Delivers community-based recreation programming to the youth, children, and the whole community to reduce risk factors and improve quality of life. Community swimming pool and youth field trips are also delivered by this program.

Education Support Worker (ESW)

Liaise with students, parents/guardians, and the school staff to achieve student success. The ESW assists with the coordination of cultural activities, culture camps, Elders tea, on-the-land learning, and literacy activities to keep the students leaning in more ways than in the classroom. The ESW also provides support and resources as students graduate and transition into high school.

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Department Updates cont

School Supply Bursary K5 to Grade 12

Applications for a school supply bursary are accepted each year and are typically posted over the summer. Submit your request by June 10.

Graduation Bursary

Applications for a high school graduation bursary are accepted each year. Submit your request to the Citizen Development Department attention: Education Support Worker before April 30th.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE – DUNYA RA KATS KU

The new centre was granted a License to operate on October 1st, 2022, after having the final Inspection, the doors opened to provide services on October 18th, 2022.

We currently have 18 children enrolled with a waitlist of children awaiting to start the program. Due to the current waitlist the Centre has implemented an enrollment criteria based on priority given to parents who are employed full time or to

support children with individual program plans.

The staff and families were delighted for the service to commence after the long wait, and the children have been extremely excited as they enjoy and explore their new centre which comes with new learning materials and choices that the program offers.

The centre has recently expanded the after-school program to offer full time services to accommodate the summer school break.

We also have welcomed a hand full of little toddlers and preschoolers to the program, they are always a delight to watch as they learn, grow, and enjoy their new territory.

A farewell to 2 children that have recently left the community- Lola and Ellis, we will miss you!

Meet The ECDC Employees:

Victoria Paton - Preschool Childcare Educator. Victoria has been with the centre for a year and is in her 1st year of the ELCC program, she currently is working towards her level 1a.

Tannis Charlie - ECDC Floater Educator. Tannis has been with the centre off and on for several years and is in her 3rd year of the ELCC program, she currently is working towards her level 1a.

Jacy Sam - ECDC Floater Educator. Jacy has been with the centre off and

on for 3 years and is in her 2nd year of the ELCC program, she currently is working towards her level 1a.

Cho-Khyaia Simon - Auxiliary Janitor. Cho-Kyaia is new to the centre, welcome to the team.

Lori Sims - ECDC Manager. Lori has been with the Centre since 2009. Lori completed the ELCC program in 2007 with her ELCC diploma and is currently enrolled in the program to help mentor and support the ECDC staff.

The ECDC Staff responsibilities include providing and the maintenance of safe, secure, sanitary, and nurturing environment in which infants/toddlers, preschooler and after-schoolers can explore and be provided opportunities to develop language, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical needs from the context of a wholistic setting.

The Centres environment is set up to include strong values that naturally fosters culture.

We have heard learning one's culture can foster cultural identify and community bonding. That also integrates traditional child rearing materials and practices with current Best Practice developmentally appropriate methodologies. Teaching cultural awareness, enhancing each child's identity, and fostering inclusion is important to the Centre. The program provides the children with opportunities to connect with their culture traditions

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Department Updates cont

through activities such; storytelling, felt stories, story books, dancing, drumming, language lessons, on the land experiences and includes Dooli laws through vibrant posters and material that are visible in areas for the children to learn and practice everyday.

We deeply appreciate and acknowledge our late Elder Roger for his willingness to teach, share, care, and respect, and for transferring his vast amount of knowledge onto others.

A new and exciting service added to the program is the Language Nest. Taught by Shirley Joe. Shirley visits the program 3 days a week from the SFN Language program to deliver lessons to ages 12 months to 8 years of age. The children and staff are enjoying Shirley's presence as she shares her knowledge to the staff and children as she aims to help keep the Northern Tutchone language alive. Mussi Cho Shirley.

Staff continue to work hard with expanding their skill set through ongoing professional development;

- All staff have updated their RCMP checks, Standard First

Aid certification, and updated their medical screening.

- 4 staff have their Food Safe level 1 Certificate.
- Staff are enrolled into each semester at the YkU, in the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) program courses. Here is a snapshot of what the staff have done over the past year.

2023 Winter Course

- Guiding Young Children
- Leadership, Team Building and Administration in Early Learning and Childcare

2023 Spring Course

- Field placement 123 and 124
- Practicum 2

Once this spring semester wraps up in June, the staff will get a break until the fall. The staff have displayed dedication and pride in their studies and work as educators, they have great qualities as educators that include; patience, passion for teaching, love for children,

caring and compassionate, flexible, creative, organized, with great communication skills and displays dedication to their role.

The ECDC staff deserve to be acknowledged for their dedication and accomplishments over the past year, their commitment to the team and the willingness to step up and do what needs to be done, even if it falls outside their role doesn't go unnoticed. Mussi cho!

This program also presumes collaboration with other partnerships and agencies in early childhood within the community and outside the community year-round to support the needs of the child and or families of the Centre.

The Centre works in partnership with SFN Language program, Yukon childcare centres, Department of Education, Yukon University, CDC, Yukon First Nation Education Directorate, Early Years Program, and Healthy Families, together we have formed a great relationship with providing a wholistic plan to support the families in Pelly Crossing.

Department Updates cont

CAPITAL DEPARTMENT



The Capital Department consists of approximately 20 people who provide a broad range of services from road maintenance to water delivery, housing construction and infrastructure maintenance. The department lead the construction of 11 new houses in Willow Creek and Jon Ra subdivisions which began in August of 2021 and was completed in November of 2022. All 11 houses have been allocated to SFN citizens and their families. Josh Hirsch and his crew were contracted to complete construction on the 11 new houses in Pelly Crossing with two SFN local hires. Support work was also supplied to two local contractors - Teddy Charlie's TC Construction and Adam VanBibber's, VanBibber Trucking INC. Additionally, 10 vacant lots around town were marked for construction for 2023. As part of future residential development, Jon Ra has a new street called Mallard for future homes for SFN citizens.

New Water Pipeline in Jon Ra by Castle Rock

Castle Rock recently finished 4 months of work for new water

expansion to Jon Ra Subdivision from the Water Treatment Plant in Willow Creek. Castle Rock will return in May to complete construction of the new water system and homes were hooked up in the summer of 2023.

O&M

In preparation for the inevitable cold spells, a few things the citizens of SFN can do to assist with the

O&M staff of five employees:

Pay attention to heat source levels:

- Fuel Levels
- Wood Supply
- Oil Levels

And, be on the lookout for anything out of the ordinary and call Capital immediately.



Taraw Water Treatment Plant

The Water Treatment Plant in Willow Creek has received an upgrade with the addition of a 3rd reservoir and a new water well drilled. Work on the water plant upgrades was completed in January of 2023.

In preparation for the inevitable cold weather, citizens can assist the staff of six Capital employees:

- Ensure Heat Trace is on
- Ensure there is sufficient heat inside the watersheds
- Ensure recirculation pump is on

Capital has hired a new Infrastructure Manager, Jason Behling to assist with deferred maintenance for community repairs and upgrades: lighting, HVACs and structural work. Capital has also provided mold testing, air quality testing in the homes of SFN citizens. Wheelchair ramps and roof replacement work has been supplied by two local contractors; Dwayne Smith and Teddy Charlie's TC Construction. Numerous wood contracts have been issued as well. Lastly, Capital hired two fire keepers and a local carpenter crew of 3 for minor renovation work.



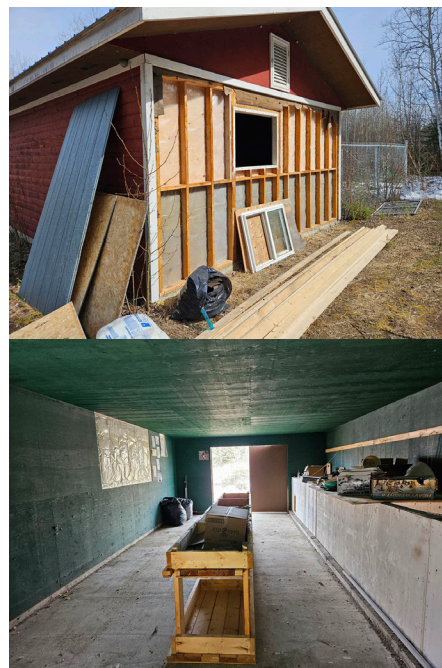
Community Safety Officer

The Community Safety Officer team consists of Team Lead, Darcy Marcotte and CSOs David Bennett, Rebecca Roberts and Graham Swainson. The team is dedicated to maintaining the safety and well-being of the community.

Bootlegging and Drug Dealer Concerns: The Community Safety Officers (CSOs), have been actively addressing concerns related to bootlegging and drug activities within our community. To assist us in this effort, we continue to collaborate with SCAN (Safer Communities and), a dedicated team working towards community safety. Any information we receive regarding these activities is treated confidentially, and we promptly share it with the local RCMP and SCAN team. Please note that as CSOs, we do not possess arrest or enforcement powers for our safety. Our primary role involves gathering and passing on information to justice professionals.

Continued Dog Concerns

As you are aware, we receive numerous complaints regarding dogs in our community. These complaints range from incidents where dogs form packs during a female dog's heat cycle to loose dogs entering yards and attacking dogs that are tied up. When we receive



ANIMAL SHELTER UNDER RENOVATIONS

dog related complaints, we make efforts to identify the owners and kindly request them to secure their dogs appropriately.

Canadian Animal Assistance Team

Over the past two years, the CSO program has been collaborating with the Canadian Animal Assistance Team (CAAT) to address animal welfare concerns. The CAAT comprises a team of veterinarians and assistants who have been visiting our community to perform spaying and neutering procedures on animals and addressing basic animal



TRAINING FOR NEWLY DEVELOPED SSRU TEAM

healthcare needs. The Pelly Crossing Dog group has actively participated in planning these visits. During the CAAT's recent visit, our CSOs accompanied them to the school, where they conducted a dog bite prevention workshop for students ranging from kindergarten to grade 7. Additionally, the CAAT team met with the newly elected Council, engaging in a productive question and answer session. The CSOs also provided a community tour for the vet team, which they greatly enjoyed. A community question and answer meeting was held at the Link Building, attracting a significant

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Community Safety Officer cont



COMMUNITY Q/A MEETING

turnout. We were delighted to have the Yukon Government's Chief Veterinary Officer, Mary Vandercop, present at the event offering dog tags which included door prizes. Snacks and additional door prizes were given out during this event. The Vet Team will visit our community next summer to perform another pet care clinic administering vaccines, and conducting checkups for dogs and cats.

Pelly Crossing Animal Shelter

Recognizing the need for an operational animal shelter, the CSO program has initiated renovations on the existing shelter located near Mica Creek. Our objective is to

have a functioning facility in place. This will not only create additional employment opportunities but will also provide an educational platform for students, allowing them to learn and care for animals.

Pelly Crossing Fire Services

Efforts have been underway to establish a local Volunteer Fire department in Pelly Crossing. Encouraging community participation has been a challenge, but we remain committed to this goal. In April, the Yukon Government's Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal conducted a 2-day training session for a newly developed program called the SSRU-

Scene Safety Response Unit. We had 5 participants attending the weekend training session. Another training session was scheduled for May 23-25, where 8 individuals participated. Our plan is to continue recruiting local volunteers and hold monthly training meetings. Given recent media reports of fires in Alberta and the historical fire incidents in the Yukon, it is crucial for us to enhance our community's preparedness. To support the newly formed SSRU team, the Yukon Fire Marshal Office has provided a 1-ton truck equipped with a water holding tank and water pump for the Selkirk First Nations. As more people get involved, we anticipate more opportunities for more training and more equipment.

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Community Safety Officer cont



NEW SSRU TRUCK GIVEN TO SFN FROM YUKON GOVERNMENT FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE



1-867 537-TIPS 8477

Do you have information about a community concern?
Call 867-537-TIPS (8477) to leave anonymous information.



- Safer Community
- Crime Prevention
- Healthy Community
- Personal & Family Safety
- Crime Reduction

For all emergencies requiring ambulance, fire, or police, dial 9-1-1


Selkirk First Nation is committed to making a difference in the lives of citizens.



Northwestel
Bringing us together.

Selkirk First Nation



Community Safety Officers

<p>Darcy Marcotte - CSO - LEAD (867) 689-0303</p> <p>Dave Bennett - CSO (867) 689-1163</p> <p>Reasons to call CSOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspicious activity • Property damage • Noise complaints • Unusual traffic or people • Unsafe activities • Misuse of traditional territory • Wildlife concerns • Animal welfare 	<p>RCMP, Fire Dept., EMS 911</p> <p>Conservation Tips Hotline 1-800-661-0525</p> <p>Pelly Crossing Health Centre 1-867-537-4444</p> <p>Yukon Distress and Support Line 1-844-533-3030</p> <p>Yukon Women's Transition Home 1-867-668-5733</p> <p>Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868</p> <p>Pelly RCMP Detachment Inquiries 1-867-537-2677</p> <p>Pelly RCMP Complaints Line 1-867-537-5555</p> <p>SCAN (Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods) 1-866-530-7226</p>
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Email: comsafetyofficer@selkirkfn.com

Announcements and Public Notices

Congratulations!

*Roxanne Buyck & Shawn Alfred
On your beautiful baby girl,
sister for Keke.*

Elizabeth Phylistine

Josephine Buyck

*Love your family in Pelly Crossing,
Mayo*



Happy Birthday Lucy!

*May 11, 2023 marked a
remarkable day as Lucy
Sanderson celebrated turning 97
years young! Surrounded by close
family, she marked this special
occasion at the 98 with love and
joy. Lucy's daughter, Gail, wanted
to share these heartfelt words with
her beloved mother:*

"Dear Mom,

*Wishing you a very happy 97th
birthday – what an incredible
milestone you've achieved!*

*Sending you loads of hugs and
kisses,*

Your daughter, Gail"

We Kindly request your

Up-to-date Mailing Address

The Governance Department is asking for updated mailing addresses for all SFN beneficiaries.

What you can expect to receive in the mail:

- Important notices
- Newsletters & bulletins
- Voting ballots during elections

Please submit your current address to:

dawsond@selkirkfn.com

OR

alfredjerry@selkirkfn.com



ATTENTION SFN CITIZENS

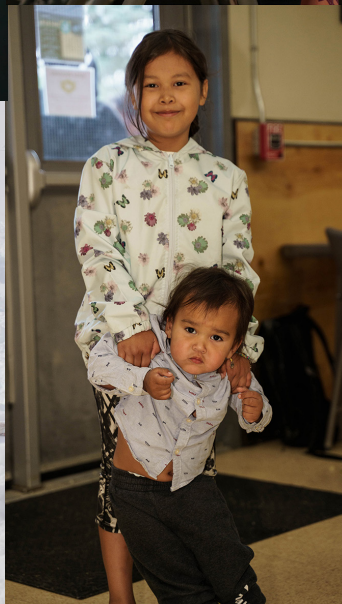
REMINDER! CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

**THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE INVITES CITIZENS TO
SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

SEND YOUR PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS TO:

Selkirk First Nation, Attn: Resolution Committee
Box 40, Pelly Crossing, Yukon, Y0B 1M0
resolutions@selkirkfn.com

Photos



Photos



Photos



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Selkirk First Nation

