SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

TAHLTAN
Central Government

CONTENTS

STAFF MESSAGES

President's Message | Chad Norman Day 1

Vice President Message | Heather Hawkins 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Dates 5

Board of Directors Elections 2019 6

Annual General Assembly Agenda 7

NEW MEMBERS

New Tahltans 11

Condolences 11

New Staff 12

HOOBIYEE 2019 **15**

CARIBOU COLLARING **17**

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Lands | Christine Creyke 21

THREAT | Nalaine Morin 24

Wildlife Guardian | Clements Brace 26

Education & Training | Freda Campbell 28

Employment & Contracting | Adrian Carlick 30

Membership & Genealogy | Shannon Frank 34

Language | Edōsdi – Judy Thompson 35

PERSONAL PROFILES

Elder | Pat Etzerza 40

Culture | Clements Brace 42

Healthy Active Tahltans | Caden Jakesta, Charlotte Etzerza 43

Inspiring Young Tahltans | Kole Cardinal, Hayle Gallup 45

ALL-NATIVE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT **47**

TNDC AND 3 NATIONS UPDATES **49**

MOOSE HIDE 2019 **51**

IMPORTANT NEWS

Legal Update | Skii Km Lax Hah Case 54

Industry Report | Newcrest 55

President's Message

Chad Norman Day
President, Tahltan Central Government

Welcome to the newly designed Spring Edition of the Tahltan Central Government's Quarterly Newsletter. As the season changes and our landscape becomes alive with flora, our TCG Team continues to grow and become stronger.

I am pleased to welcome Clements Brace as our second Lands Guardian, Carol Danielson as the Dease Lake Community Director, Sandra Marion as our Culture & Heritage Director, Lance Nagwan as our new Wildlife Department Director, and Kody Penner as the Events Manager. Adding these amazing individuals to our central government is sure to strengthen our capacity and we are excited to add them to our TCG Family.

With the establishment of the Cultural & Heritage Department, we will be working closely with our communities, all Tahltan governments, Elders and several experts to ensure the Tahltan Nation continues to strengthen our Title and Rights. With multiple neighbouring Nations increasingly laying claims to our Territory, the Tahltan Nation will be expending significant resources to protect our borders. We will do so diplomatically, but will not hesitate to take more aggressive steps when necessary.

The Culture & Heritage Department will also ensure that additional resources and capacity are funnelled into revitalizing our Tahltan culture and making it more readily available to our people.

Economic opportunities continue to be plentiful in Tahltan Territory and we discussed this thoroughly at our inaugural TCG Special Assembly in February and again during our annual Job Fair in early April. Both events were a huge success and I want to thank everyone in attendance, as well as those involved with the planning and delivery of these important initiatives. Tahltans have access to more free education/training dollars and programs than ever before. Furthermore, new agreements and TCG capacity have created more advantages for Tahltans looking for employment and/or contracting opportunities in our Territory and with our industrial partners. Please reach out to Freda Campbell (Education & Training Director) or Adrian Carlick (Employment & Contracting Director) for more information.

As Tahltan Territory and the "Golden Triangle" continues to receive increased attention and investments from the outside world, the TCG has taken a balanced approach and enhanced our land management and opposition to any kind of exploration in areas of our Territory. Recently we have ensured that nearly all exploration activity around Mount Edziza and the Klappan have stopped and are working with government to officially ratify the historic Klappan Plan. We have also made further progress on a Tahltan Land Use Plan and will be taking some serious steps to shut down the jade/placer mining industry and to create no-go zones around sensitive areas like Sheslay and those near our communities.

> **Recently we have ensured that nearly all exploration activity around Mount Edziza and the Klappan have stopped and are working with government to officially ratify the historic Klappan Plan.**

This will be the last newsletter prior to two very important decisions that must be made by the Tahltan members in the coming two months. The first is the ratification vote regarding a potential Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) on the proposed KSM Project. The second is for the TCG election that, for the first time ever, will allow Tahltan members to vote for both the Executive Council and TCG's Family Representatives. In order to vote and receive important information regarding both processes, Tahltans must ensure the TCG has their proper contact information. Please reach out to our Membership and Genealogy Director to update your information as necessary.

In closing, I welcome to the world our new Tahltan babies and for those we have lost I send my heartfelt condolences to their family and friends.

Meduh and Nedishchā!

Chad Norman Day

Left: Chad at Hoobiyee 2019

Vice President's Message

Heather Hawkins
Vice President, Tahltan Central Government
vicepresident@tahltan.org

It is so nice to see the new grass and leaves sprouting in our Territory, marking the renewal and rebirth of Spring. During this past winter I have been busy. I attended an important meeting with Nisga'a Government representatives prior to our Christmas break and then participated at Hoobiyee, two very important events where we are building an important alliance for our Nation.

The Tahltan Central Government held some important meetings in January with our Board of Directors and also with industry. In March and April I was able to participate with scoring Tahltan student applications for scholarships that are offered by both Red Chris and AltaGas.

I have been active with our numerous working groups through the Government-to-Government Forum, which is operated through the Lands Department, and our Tahltan Heritage Resource Environmental Archaeological Team. It is my passion to work very closely in ensuring that industry is being held accountable to our Tahltan Environmental Standards from the beginning of a referral notice of work to the end of what would be the reclamation of a mine.

I participate on both environmental performance committees for the Galore Creek Project and the AltaGas Northwest Hydro Projects. I look forward to this year's AGA and seeing everyone that will be home for our summer harvests. On a personal note, my family of five is thriving and healthy. I cannot ask for more.

> **"It is my passion to work very closely in ensuring that industry is being held accountable to our Tahltan Environmental Standards from the beginning of a referral notice of work to the end of what would be the reclamation of a mine."**

UPCOMING EVENTS

6 — Board of Directors Election 2019
7 — Annual General Assembly Agenda

SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 21
National Indigenous Peoples Day,
Tahltan Celebration Day

JUNE 22
Tour de Telegraph

JUNE 27–28
AGA – Elders Council Meetings

JUNE 28
AGA – Opening ceremonies

JUNE 29–JULY 1
AGA, Executive Committee, and Family Representative Election Voting

JULY 2
AGA – TNDC Meeting

Board of Directors Election 2019

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

You can vote for ONE individual in each of the following positions:

PRESIDENT

Chad Norman DAY

Gayleen DAY

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ken EDZERZA

Heather Louise HAWKINS

Carlene Tracey QUOCK

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Adrian CARLICK

Sheena SEYMOUR

FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

In addition to voting for the Executive Committee, if you are a member of one of the families listed below, you may place a vote for the family representative of your family. You will only be eligible to vote for a family representative if you are registered as a member of the applicable family. To confirm which family, if any, you are a member of, you may contact Shannon Frank, TCG Membership and Genealogy Director, at informationdirector@tahltan.org or by telephone at (250) 643-2037.

CAWTOONMA

Christina CALLBREATH

Lynda EDZERZA

Jodi PAYNE

STIKINE CLAW/THICKE

Colleen PARKER

Melva QUOCK

DEKAMA

Arlene CORCORAN

Tina VAN MIERLO

SHUKAK

Mindy-Lou HENYU

Lee MARION

ETH'ENI

Stacey DAY

Teneal NOLE

Angela SLADEN

THUD GA

Emma CARLICK

Sandra MARION

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION (NO VOTE REQUIRED)

CARLICK: Alice HAMLIN

ETZENLEE: Ann Marlene BALL

GOOD-ZA-MA: Carmen MCPHEE

TS'IMGALTEDA: Kimberley MARION

**Please note that acclamations only come into effect at the conclusion of the elections process **

Annual General Assembly Agenda

JUNE 29TH–JULY 2ND, 2019
DEASE LAKE RECREATION CENTRE

Day care provided at Headstart building

THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH, 2019	
8:00 AM–9:00 PM	Elders Breakfast
9:00 AM–12:00 PM	Elders Council Meeting
12:00 PM–1:00 PM	Elders Lunch
1:00 PM–5:00 PM	Elders Council Meeting
5:00 PM–6:00 PM	Elders Dinner
FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2019	
8:00 AM–9:00 AM	Elders Breakfast
9:00 AM–12:00 PM	Elders Council Meeting at Dease Lake Rec Centre
12:00 PM–1:00 PM	Elders Lunch
1:00 PM–4:00 PM	Elders Council Meeting at Dease Lake Rec Centre
5:00 PM	Opening Prayer and Tahltan Dancing **Please wear your regalia and join!**
5:30 PM	Grad Dinner
7:00 PM–10:00 PM	Community Dance at Dease Lake Community Hall
SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH, 2019	
7:30 AM–9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	TCG Executive & Family Representative Voting by Paper Ballots Opens
9:00 AM–9:30 AM	Appointing of Chair, Approval of Agenda, Appointment of Resolutions Committee
9:30 AM–10:45 AM	Financial Update | TCG Secretary Treasurer Adrian Carlick & Dept. of Finance Director Ginger Fuller
10:45 AM–12:00 PM	Tahltan Heritage Trust Report | Trustees Garry Merkel, Rob McPhee & Bill Adsit
12:00 PM–1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM–2:00 PM	Language Dept Update | Director Edõsdi, Judy Thompson
2:00 PM–3:30 PM	Lands Dept & THREAT Update | Director Christine Creyke & THREAT Manager Nalaine Morin
3:30 PM–3:45 PM	Break
3:45 PM–4:30 PM	Wildlife Dept Update | Director Lance Nagwan
4:30 PM–5:30 PM	Fisheries Update | Director Cheri Frocklage
5:30 PM–7:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM–8:00 PM	TCG Executive & Family Representative Candidate Speeches (3–5 minutes per candidate)
8:00 PM	TCG Executive & Family Representative Voting by Paper Ballot Closes
9:00 PM–10:00 PM	Language Dept Entertainment

Tahltan Artisans: To register as a vendor at the AGA please contact Kody at events@tahltan.org | 250.463.1400

To help reduce waste, please bring your own cups & water bottles

SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH, 2019	
7:30 AM–9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	TCG Executive & Family Representative Voting by Paper Ballot Opens
9:00 AM–9:45 AM	Tahltan Socio-Cultural Working Group (TSWG) Update | TSWG Lead Feddie Louie
9:45 AM–10:30 AM	Stikine Wholistic Working Group (SWWG) Update | SWWG Coordinator Nadine Handel
10:30 AM–11:15 PM	Employment & Contracting Dept | Director Adrian Carlick
11:15 AM–12:00 PM	Education & Training Dept | Director Freda Campbell
12:00 PM–1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM–1:45 PM	Negotiations Update | Rob McPhee
1:45 PM–2:30 PM	Legal Cases Update | Legal Counsel Tyson Lamarsh
2:30 PM–3:15 PM	Seabridge Gold Update
3:15 PM–3:30 PM	Break
3:30 PM–4:30 PM	NorthPac Logging Update
4:30 PM–5:30 PM	Newcrest (Red Chris Mine) Update
5:30 PM–7:00 PM	Dinner & Booth Prize Draws
7:00 PM	Stick Gambling
8:00 PM	TCG Executive & Family Representative Voting by Paper Ballot Closes
MONDAY, JULY 1ST, 2019	
7:00 AM–2:00 PM	Canada Day Activities
9:00 AM	TCG Executive & Family Representative Voting by Paper Ballot Opens
2:00 PM–4:30 PM	Resolutions with Tahltan Membership & Bylaw Amendment Propositions
4:30 PM	TCG Board of Directors Presentation | Led by President Chad Norman Day
5:00 PM	TCG Executive & Family Representative Voting by Paper Ballot Closes
5:30 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Election Results Announcement
7:00 PM	Dance @ Dease Lake Community Hall **Adults only (19+)**
TUESDAY, JULY 2ND, 2019	
7:30 AM–9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM–12:00 PM	Tahltan Nation Development Corporation Update | TNDC Board & President Peter Arendt
12:00 PM	Lunch

Questions about the AGA, Elders accommodation or childcare?
Contact: receptionist@tahltan.org | 1-855-824-5826

NEW MEMBERS

Introducing newborns of the Tahltan Nation and new staff of the Tahltan Central Government!

Condolences to the families of those who have passed.

11 — New Tahltans
11 — Condolences
12 — New Staff

New Tahltans

AURORA LUNA LOUIE

Chance Austin Louie & Dorian George

March 31st, 2019

8lbs 9oz

IVAN CEDAR-LEE O'SHEA JACKSON

Stephanie Nole & Mas Jackson

April 5, 2019

7lbs 4oz

CALI ANDROMEDA ROSE CARLICK

Calvin Carlick & Vivian Clayton

March 10, 2019

8lbs 12oz

Condolences

FANNIE VANCE

Feb 1952–April 2019

ELAINE REID

January 1962–March 2019

DERIN CREYKE

July 1978–March 2019

CHARLEEN HENYU

July 1978–March 2019

MICHAEL JOHNSTONE

December 1975–March 2019

New Staff

CLEMENTS BRACE | WILDLIFE GUARDIAN

The Tahltan Central Government recently hired Clements Brace as our seconds full-time Lands Guardian. Clements will assist the Guardian program in wildlife protection, climate change, biological monitoring, and inspection of mineral exploration sites. "I am excited for Clements to join our team. It's important to have a strong, experienced, passionate Tahltan out there on the land, doing important work for our Nation. Building up the Guardian program will help our Lands team ensure Industry is meeting both our requirements and their commitments to how they should operate in Tahltan Territory" says Christine Creyke, Lands Director.

Prior to joining our team, Clements was an outfitting guide. He is an avid hunter who provides meat and wood to the Elders. He is actively learning our language, and sharing our Tahltan ways. Clements resides in Dease Lake with his wife, Joely Blackburn.

Clements first joined the TCG team in August 2017 as a part-time Guardian. His new full-time position has been funded by TCG's new community-based climate change monitoring program, which has been funded by the Federal Government. As the Tahltan Nation is well aware, climate change is affecting us in many ways, such as in increased fire frequency. Clements' first task was capturing caribou and installing GPS collars on 10 Tseneglode caribou (9 females, 1 male) in the Jade-Boulder area. "My new role as Tahltan Wildlife Guardian is very exciting. I am honoured to be working for our Nation and to be protecting our land and our animals. I have had the opportunity to work with our youth in the Dease Lake School and on our land and I look forward to teaching our youth what I have learned."

CAROL DANIELSON | DEASE LAKE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

Greetings my fellow Tahltans! My name is Carol (Davidson) Danielson, and my mother is Lillian (Johnny) Davidson. My grandmother is Florence (Brooks-Campbell) Johnny, of the Dahkema (Quock) family. I was born in Cassiar, BC, and raised my entire life in the Tahltan homeland. My husband Mike and I have lived in Dease Lake (where he was also raised) for many years. We love raising our family here, living and teaching our kids in the places and ways that we were also raised. I worked in the past years mainly for TNDC, TBC-People's Haven, and SD87-Stikine school District. My career has been primarily in Accounting, Management, and Office Admin. I look forward to putting my skills to work for the TCG in this new position. I have also been involved in many volunteer positions in Dease, such as DL Community Club, SD Trustee (DL), Rec Centre Director, Stikine Minor Hockey, DL Jr Rangers, Canadian Rangers, Snowriders, Grad & School events, to name a few. I enjoy attending meetings that pertain to our Community and Nation, and am fairly vocal when it comes to things I am passionate about. I love working and visiting with people and the Elders, and organizing community events so I feel that I will be a very good fit for this new position. My position involves understanding, discussing, and building on the needs of our Nation and communities, and as such, being accountable to our people and Nation for the funds entrusted to this program. I am very excited for the future and direction of our Tahltan Nation and the chance to get to work with the TCG and Bands! Meduh!

SANDRA MARION | DIRECTOR OF CULTURE & HERITAGE

Hello, my Tahltan name is Tahl'ta-ma. I'm from the Thudga Family and I reside in Terrace, B.C. with my family. We love to come home to the territory every chance we get, and I'm very excited about the opportunity to work for our Nation's Government again. I worked for the Tahltan Central Government (Council then) from 2009 to 2011, during which time I gained experience and built relationships with my short learning curve and well-mannered personality.

I am honoured and humbled to be hired as your Director of Culture & Heritage. I believe culture and heritage are essential components for helping our Nation progress and move forward. This new department offers us an opportunity to put our pens to paper and give our Traditions and Culture the Honour and Respect they deserve. My grandmother, Violet Carlick, would always teach us how we did things long ago and the reasoning behind why we did them that way. She would talk extensively about the process of burials, births and name giving. She would always tell us, "Don't forget who you are and where you come from, you are Tahltan." I encourage all Tahltans to come and share their knowledge with me, at any time. This is a journey that can only be made together, working collectively towards our shared goal of preserving and maintaining our unique Tahltan culture and heritage.

KODY PENNER | EVENTS MANAGER

The Tahltan Central Government recently hired Kody Penner as Events Manager. Kody is Tahltan and the grandson of Evelyn Rattray and son of Heather Rattray. His experience in business from sales to marketing will help the TCG make contacts and connect with various members of the community in order to build great events.

One of Kody's passions is sports. He played University football and Canadian rugby. Kody's love of sport gives him a strong connection to the Healthy Active Tahltans movement, for which he will now be responsible. He is driven to help bring sports and a healthy active lifestyle to more Tahltans.

Mining has always been a cornerstone to Kody's family. As a result, Kody worked at Brucejack mine for over a year and became very connected with the industry and what it offers to our Nation.

"As Events Manager, I hope to bring our community together in more meaningful ways and create and implement more events to help Tahltans become more informed. I look forward to connecting with family along the way."

LANCE NAGWAN | WILDLIFE DIRECTOR

The Tahltan Central Government is pleased to announce that Lance Nagwan has accepted the role of Wildlife Director.

The TCG Wildlife Department will work closely with both the Province and the mining and exploration industries to ensure sustainable populations of wildlife in Tahltan Territory. Lance will be responsible for supervising the Lands Guardians and the administration of the Wildlife programs, including working alongside the Tahltan Guide & Outfitters Association (TGOA) and the 3 Nations (Tahltan, Kaska, Tlingit) Working Group to achieve common goals and objectives.

Lance has five years of management experience working as both Natural Resources Director and Lands Manager for other First Nation governments. In addition, he has twelve years of field experience working for the Federal Government. Recently he has worked on projects within Tahltan Territory, both as an environmental technician and as a member of the TCG Tahltan Heritage Resources Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT).

Lance is a member of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation from Old Crow, Yukon. Raised on the land by his grandfather, he spent a huge part of his life hunting, trapping, and fishing while learning traditional values and respect for the land. Lance has a Diploma in Renewable Resource Management from Lethbridge College, Alberta. In 2016 he moved to Dease Lake with his wife, Christine Creyke, and daughter Yakh'aii. They are expecting another soon. Lance continues to live off the land and trade fish cutting and caribou butchering tricks with his Tahltan friends and family. He is excited for the opportunity to work for the Tahltan Nation and he brings a unique perspective and experience to the team. Lance will apply his background and education to protect and assert Tahltan Title and Rights.

Hoobiyee 2019

TAHLTAN AND NISGA'A NATION-TO-NATION ALLIANCE

The Tahltan Nation was invited to the 2019 Hoobiyee Celebration in the Nisga'a Village of Gingolx, on February 22, 2019.

Everyone in attendance was reminded of the long history between both Nations.

- The first recorded meeting between both Nations was in 1898 at Treaty Rock where Chiefs from both Nations made peace
- On February 12, 1977 both Nations met in Terrace to affirm that peace
- Once again on February 2, 1993 both Nations met to reaffirm the Peace Treaty and the boundaries between both Nations
- On May 3, 2016 both Nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a Nation to Nation relationship

At Hoobiyee on February 22, 2019, both Nations participated in a signing ceremony, reaffirming their commitment to continue implementing the guiding principles of the May 3, 2016 MOU. In addition, both Nations agreed to make their relationship an alliance whereby the two Nations work even closer together to address common objectives and concerns.

Hoobiyee 2019 was incredible.
Thank you to the Nisga'a Nation
for your amazing hospitality.

Community-Based Climate Change Monitoring

HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT OUR WILDLIFE?

Our local and traditional knowledge tells of decreasing snowfall and drier weather. Such changes may have serious impacts on the abundance and distribution of vegetation, fish, and wildlife. Tahltan Elders and community members are especially concerned about the most culturally important species to our Nation.

After moose and salmon, hodzih (caribou) are among the most important food sources for Tahltan. Of all herds, the Tseneglode may be the most important for sustenance today, in part due to ease of access. This April, the TCG's Wildlife Department launched a community-based monitoring program focused on the Tseneglode herd. The project began with Wildlife Guardian Clements Brace and a team of wildlife experts collaring ten hodzih in order to track the Tseneglode herd's movement and behavior. The team took samples as well. The samples help track the hodzih's health and continue an ongoing study led by the Tahltan Guide & Outfitters Association and the Province of British Columbia. The Guardians and researchers are now installing weather stations to provide corresponding climate data within the herd's range.

The next phase of the project will be to establish culture camps at Gnat Pass and Kutcho Creek. The camps fall within the Tseneglode herd's range, in an area seasonally used by Tahltans for traditional purposes. The culture camps will center on youth and Elder interaction, to ensure traditional knowledge is shared while on the land. Educational activities will include scientific monitoring methods, GPS navigation and communication equipment training, drones and aerial surveying techniques, and Tahltan bushcraft including traditional survival skills and preparation. Participants will join Wildlife Guardians in collecting climate data, maintaining the weather stations, and surveying habitat. TCG encourages Elders to come share traditional and local knowledge of hodzih. We hope Elders will help guide the project and a continued, respectful relationship with hodzih. As we learn to know the hodzih, they will teach us much about climate change.

Featured:

Clements Brace, Wildlife Guardian
Bill Jex, Provincial Wildlife Biologist
Dr. Caeley Thacker, Wildlife Veterinarian
Bill Oestreich, Outfitter and former Wildlife Director
William Oestreich, Bill's son
Fraser MacDonald

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Assess long and short-term climate trends for the Tseneglode Woodland Caribou Herd using traditional, local, and scientific knowledge;
2. Educate and train Tahltans to identify and monitor climate change indicators;
3. Bring Tahltans out on the land and encourage Elder-Youth engagement and knowledge transfer through culture camps;
4. Ensure monitoring activities are producing information that meets community needs and priorities;
5. Report the findings of the study to our communities, including short and long term trends for climate and hodzih, recommendations for responses, and a range of adaptations to consider; and
6. Strengthen community capacity and understanding of climate change through an approach that integrates scientific, traditional, and local knowledge. Enable our communities to take immediate adaptation actions on the foundation of better knowledge.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

21 — Lands | Cristine Creyke

24 — THREAT | Nalaine Morin

26 — Wildlife Guardian | Clements Brace

28 — Education & Training | Freda Campbell

30 — Employment & Contracting | Adrian Carlick

34 — Membership & Genealogy | Shannon Frank

35 — Language | Edōsdi – Judy Thompson

Lands Department Report

Recently, I was appointed to the BC-Yukon Bilateral Water Management Committee (BMC), in support of the implementation of the 2017 BC-Yukon Territory Bilateral Water Management Agreement.

Christine Creyke
Lands Director
landsdirector@tahltan.org

WATER MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

In 2016 Tahltans passed an AGA resolution for the TCG to begin working on a Water Management Plan for Tahltan Territory. Since then, steps have been taken towards being proactive in water monitoring and overall water management. In 2017, we began working on a monitoring program involving the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game and Natural Resources, the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources, and got involved with the Environment and Climate Change Strategy. This collaborative project, called the BC-Alaska Transboundary Rivers Monitoring project, has our Lands Guardians taking quarterly samples on the Lower Stikine and the Unuk Rivers. In September 2018, BC Ministry of Environment staff provided water quality monitoring training to our Lands Guardians, Jarett Quock and Clements Brace.

The purpose of the BC-Alaska Transboundary Rivers Monitoring project is to provide an up-to-date assessment of current aquatic health of the Taku, Stikine, and Unuk Rivers. Researchers collect, analyze, and report on water quality, sediment quality, benthic tissue, and fish tissue data. The BC program includes 14 sampling sites in the three transboundary rivers. Water and sediment samples are analyzed for general chemistry and metals, and benthic invertebrate and fish tissue are analyzed for metals.

The Alaskan monitoring program includes 21 sites on the three transboundary rivers. These sites are downstream of the Canadian border. Water and sediment quality samples are analyzed for general chemistry and metals, and a fish tissue monitoring program targets both resident fish and salmon smolts. A habitat survey samples 20 randomly selected sites across southeast Alaska. Water quality monitoring is also being performed by Tribes in Alaska, who are currently investigating similar areas. The monitoring program is now summarizing the results. We will share their findings in the Spring of 2019.

Recently, I was appointed to the BC-Yukon Bilateral Water Management Committee (BMC), in support of the implementation of the 2017 BC-Yukon Territory Bilateral Water Management Agreement. The main purpose of the BMC is to administer the Agreement and report on its achievements. I will join the BMC, along with representatives from the Government of BC, the Government of Yukon, and Indigenous representatives from other First Nations within the Liard River watershed. I look forward to contributing Tahltan knowledge, sharing local experience, and identifying interests related to managing and monitoring our shared transboundary waters.

This May, University of British Columbia (UBC) coop student, Siddiq Mahyildin, will begin a four-month contract (May–August) working for the TCG Lands Department. Siddiq is a Master's student in the Mining Engineering Department at UBC. He will be responsible for collecting and organizing all data (both private and public) from mining projects and activities in Tahltan Territory. Siddiq will develop an exploration database to support analysis of exploration activities in Tahltan Territory, with a focus on regional groundwater (i.e. water management/ stewardship, gap analysis, etc.). Our hope is that the work developed by Siddiq will assist the Lands Department with framing a water management plan.

TAHLTAN LAND USE PLAN

The Land Use Plan (LUP) will define principles, goals, objectives and policies to help govern Tahltan Territory and provide a basis for decision making. The LUP process began at the 2016 AGA. Over the last three years we have been busy interviewing Tahltan members and collecting information. We are excited to present the first draft of the LUP at the 2019 AGA.

When we started the process, TCG contracted Dillon Consulting Ltd., a planning firm out of Vancouver, to assist with the process. In the Fall of 2018, we decided to end that contract and began working with Alanna Quock, who owns and operates Regenative Design & Development Consulting. Alanna, daughter of Ray Quock and a Tahltan member, has a background in planning, design, community development, and environmental management. She has over 15 years of experience working with individuals, First Nations, communities and governments. Alanna and her team have been an excellent addition to the development of the LUP.

The Land Use Plan is an important document that will, among other things, identify and ensure that the most sacred parts of our territory are protected for all generations to come.

In February, the planning team held community meetings in Dease Lake, Iskut, and Telegraph Creek. These meetings provided an opportunity to introduce Alanna, as well as give an update on the process. The questions and feedback during these meetings were instrumental in providing direction on the next steps once the first draft of the LUP is complete.

In March we held a five-day technical planning session, which included attendees President Chad Norman Day, TCG Negotiator Rob McPhee, and several members of our Tahltan Heritage Resources Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT), including Jerry Asp, Nalaine Morin, Norm MacLean and Vera Asp. Other participants included Tahltan Elders Vernon Marion and Pat Etzerza, as well as Youth representatives Kelly Edzerza-Bapty, Nathan Skubovius, Jodi Payne, and Tahltan Fisheries representative, Kerry Carlick.

Discussions at the technical planning session resulted in a first draft of 'zones' throughout the Territory where development is appropriate, as well as the 'zones' where development may not be appropriate. We will be holding a second three-day technical session in Dease Lake the week of May 27th. During these meetings we will continue working through the draft zones based on the vision and values recorded to date, then identify the next steps for completion of the draft LUP. We will hold a community dinner on the last day of the session to present the work done to date. Please join us for dinner and help contribute to long-term planning for our lands and resources.

Left: Land Use Planning workshop

MUSHROOM HARVESTING UPDATE

Above: Aerial view of Telegraph Creek after the wildfires

The Lands Department has begun preparing for the upcoming Mushroom Harvesting season. Last year's fires may bring an influx of harvesters starting around mid-May to July. We have been reading about how other Nations (e.g. Tsilhqot'in and Secwepemc) prepare to ensure the protection of their lands.

With hundreds of visitors/harvesters come huge environmental and safety concerns. We are identifying designated campsites where we will set up porta-potties and garbage bins. We are making plans to ensure these are cleaned often and that garbage does not become a concern. We recognize that access to water is an issue too. Therefore, we are hoping to have showers built. We will stress that people do not wash in our rivers and lakes.

If shower and/or laundry services in the area are not available, we must be cognizant that people may be bathing and washing clothes in our waters. Signs will be posted throughout the designated campsites, along the roads, and in other areas of high importance, informing visitors about the guidelines we put in place to protect our land. No fires will be permitted. We will work closely with the RCMP and the government to ensure visitors are following our rules and guidelines.

We are currently developing our map of the "no-go zones", including reserve land, private property, and culturally significant places such as graveyards and traditional camps. We will not be permitting access past Reserve land, including Telegraph Creek and Old Tahltan, and we will not be permitting the use of ATVs or boats. This will limit access across the river and into other backcountry areas. We will work with the float plane and helicopter services in the area to ensure we know where people are going and to limit access.

We will be hiring two Lands Guardians out of Telegraph Creek to assist our full-time Guardians, Jarett Quock and Clements Brace. Our Guardians will monitor land use and ensure everyone follows our rules/guidelines. If you live in Telegraph and are interested in becoming a monitor, please check out our recent job posting or contact the TCG office.

We will be stopping all visitors/harvesters at 8-mile Reserve on the Telegraph Creek road to issue permits for harvesting and hand out information brochures. The $50 permit fee will apply to all non-Tahltans hoping to harvest mushrooms. This fee will assist with the overall cost of keeping our land clean. We will be issuing permits to all Tahltan as well, however there will be no permit fee. Issuing permits to our own people allows us to gather information on how many people are harvesting and helps us properly manage this resource. If you are interested in a temporary job at the 8-mile check point, please watch for job postings or contact the TCG office.

If you have any suggestions on how we can further protect our land or ideas on how we can limit and/or properly manage mushroom harvesting, I would appreciate your advice. I am hoping to hold an information session in the communities in the near future on how to properly harvest mushrooms. Members will learn the proper harvesting techniques and skills needed to gain the most out of this mushroom season. We are asking our members to also be cognizant of the rules and guidelines that we put in place for visitors. These rules are to ensure protection of our sensitive ecosystem. We hope that Tahltan harvesters will abide by the same guidelines but, with that said, we will not be limiting where Tahltans can go in Tahltan Territory.

THREAT Update

Tahltan Heritage Resources Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT) members participate in regulatory processes for resource development projects and implement principles found in the Resource Development Policy developed by the Tahltan Nation.

Nalaine Morin
Project Manager, THREAT
nalmorin@arrowbladeconsulting.ca

GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT

The Klappan Plan advisory board members met in Smithers on April 17th. The board members reviewed annual workplan activities, management plans for different zones in the Klappan Plan and coal licence applications for the industrial zone (Zone C).

On March 18th and April 17th, representatives from the Tahltan Lands Department participated in regional workshops with representatives from the Province and technicians from other First Nations to discuss changes to the Mineral Tenure Act and regulations that govern placer mining. These workshops are part of an ongoing process to engage with First Nations across BC on changes to legislation that govern mining activities in the Province.

RED CHRIS MINE

THREAT has not met the technical team from Newcrest but will be receiving referrals for changes to the Red Chris permits in the next couple of months.

Above: Chantel Quock water sampling in Todaggin Lake, monitoring Red Chris Mine

KERR SULPHURETS MITCHELL PROJECT

Seabridge Gold

In April, the KSM project received a five-year extension to their BC Environmental Assessment Certificate. THREAT reviewed the proposed extension application and provided comments to the company.

Recently, I completed the KSM IBA tour where I presented on the environmental management framework terms in the IBA. The IBA tour went to 8 locations over two weeks and we spoke to many Tahltan people about the IBA.

SILVERTIP MINE

COEUR MINING

The Silvertip Mine is a silver-lead-zinc mine located approximately 90 km southwest of Watson Lake and owned by Coeur. The company applied for Mines Act and Environmental Management Act permit amendments to change operations from seasonal to year-round. THREAT has been participating in the provincial mine review committee and Level 4 working group processes for these permit amendments.

A Tahltan Land Use and Occupancy study for the mine and surrounding area was completed by the Tahltan Ancestral Study Team. This study showed land use and occupation sites in and around the Silvertip claim areas, including Tahltan place names, trails, hunting areas, trapping areas, fishing locations, camps, villages, trading posts and knowledge of river courses.

NORTHWEST PROJECTS

AltaGas

The Northwest Projects (Forrest Kerr, Volcano and McLymont) continue to pursue a two-year study to lower the instream flow requirements for each of the projects. THREAT participates on the Clean Energy team for the projects with AltaGas and representatives from the Province. THREAT submitted a letter of support for the proposed studies on Volcano and McLymont. Analysis on the proposed Forrest Kerr Project is ongoing.

Above: Heather Hawkins and the AtlaGas team at the Northwest Projects site.

KUTCHO MINE PROJECT

kutcho COPPER CORP

The Kutcho Mine Project is a proposed high-grade copper-zinc development project located approximately 100 km east of Dease Lake. A project description for the Kutcho Mine project is nearing completion. Tahltan and Kaska are working with the Environmental Assessment Office on a joint collaboration plan for the review of this project.

Wildlife Guardian Update

> **The love of the land, water and people are the heart of our responsibility to establish indigenous guardian initiatives. As indigenous, place-based people, we understand this reciprocal relationship is what sustains us, therefore we must guard the resources to maintain the sacred balance of life."**

Clements Brace
Tahltan Lands Guardian

In 2016, I attended the inaugural Guardians Network Workshop in Ottawa. In 2017, I began working as a Tahltan Wildlife Guardian with Jarett. The skills Jarett had developed influenced me while in the field and as we talked about important topics to the Tahltan Nation, such as the inclusion of Tahltan language, Tahltan traditional knowledge, and Elder engagement.

In March 2019, Jarett and I attended the National Guardians Network in Vancouver. Jarett was asked to sit on a panel that included David Suzuki (Environmentalist), Councillor Colin Richardson from the Haida Nation, Creg Jeddore from the Miawpukek First Nation in Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nicole Hardisty from the Decho First Nation in Northwest Territories. At the gathering we got to talk with guardians from all over western Canada, managers of various programs, and old and new guardians alike. The guardian programs shared their knowledge and offered new ideas and methods for looking after our lands. Guardians deal with similar issues all across Canada. Finding solutions together, as a national network, benefits all of us. Our program networks and collaborates with other First Nations to share our successes and to learn from theirs. Our program is significantly stronger from our collaborative approach, as all Nations strive to develop their own self-governance and program delivery. For example, our network especially helps us with developing meaningful and effective training programs. Working with other nations on education and training increases the effectiveness of our own internal guardian program capacity and helps us secure long-term funding.

Left: Clement's fellow Tahltan Lands Guardian, Jarett Quock

Meeting other guardians and sharing our experiences in Vancouver was so rewarding in so many ways. At the gathering we discussed how community members could gain meaningful employment and educational opportunities through guardianship, and how these programs connect to our traditional values. They offer healing through land-based learning and help us rejuvenate our connection to the land. This is especially important for our youth. With the experience and knowledge from the gathering, Jarrett and I hope to realize the full potential of our Tahltan Guardian program and lead as excellent stewards and caretakers of our lands.

In Vancouver we saw the amazing artists Buffy Saint Marie, Kashtin, and Bitterly Divine. We also saw the movie Great Bear Rainforest about the Spirit Bear and the First Nations protecting it, including the Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, the Heiltsuk, and the Gitga'at. The movie inspired us to tell our own story of the changes we're experiencing on our land, with our wildlife and with our fish. We are beginning with a video about our caribou and climate change community-based monitoring program. Tahltan wildlife videos will help us share our stories with our members and other First Nations, and send a strong message to the Province and across Canada. We feel it's important to tell the stories of the land and wildlife of our Tahltan Nation. Together with other First Nations, we hope to inspire a worldwide indigenous awareness of nature.

This gathering was one of the best experiences I've had as a Lands Guardian. It presented a very strong message for us as First Nations people. We now carry this experience with us, allowing us to share with our elders, kids, and community.

We are forever grateful for this experience and hope to inspire youth to become future Lands Guardians for our Nation.

Education & Training Department Report

To date, the TCG Education & Training Department has already assisted 42 Tahltans with funding for post-secondary, trades and/or short-term certifications.

Freda Campbell
Education & Training Director
educationdirector@tahltan.org

For the 2018/2019 academic school year, we have sponsored 47 students. Our students include post-secondary students, trades students and TCG members obtaining short term certifications for employment.

To date we have spent $110,094.30 on funding Education & Training for Tahltans under TCG's new program and policies.

We also distributed $30,000.00 worth of Red Chris Development Company Ltd. bursaries. The hardworking Tahltan students who were awarded these bursaries are:

POST-SECONDARY BURSARY AWARDS	
Nikita Weiss Day	$5,000
Braden Edzerza	$2,500
Tarene Thomas	$1,250
Wyatt Creyke	$1,250
Shalane Pauls	$1,250
Chantel Quock	$1,250
SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT (TRADES) BURSARY AWARDS	
Kiana Ball	$5,000
Les Creyke	$2,500
Keenan Russell	$1,250
Shanna Creyke	$1,250
Keenan Vance	$1,250
Megan Rousseau	$1,250
COMMUNITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS	
Tina Etzerza	$3,500
Teneal Nole	$1,500

We also distributed $9,000.00 worth of Tahltan Guide & Outfitters Association bursaries. The hardworking Tahltan students who were awarded these bursaries are:

POST-SECONDARY BURSARY AWARDS	
Nikita Weiss Day	$2,000
Braden Edzerza	$1,000
Wyatt Creyke	$500
SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT (TRADES) BURSARY AWARDS	
Kiana Ball	$2,000
Les Creyke	$2,000
Keenan Russell	$1,000
Shanna Creyke	$500

We are also working with AltaGas Ltd. to award $26,000.00 in bursaries.

> **The 2019 Dease Lake Bootcamp was a great success with 314 certificates awarded to 49 participants. The Bootcamp had a 97% attendance rate and a 95% success rate.**

Northpac Forestry Group, Red Chris and Skeena Resources have all agreed to hire successful graduates of the Bootcamp. Twenty students completed the majority of the courses offered. Their names were given to industry at the Dease Lake Job Fair. In the next newsletter, we hope to report to you that all 20 students were hired.

The Wildfire Training Courses were a success as well. 197 certifications were awarded to 34 participants. There was a 94% participation rate. We now have 18 locals certified to fight fire if necessary and 8 people certified to fight fire and be a medic. Importantly, there are 27 locals certified to fight fire in the territory because of the Wildfire Training Courses.

Below: Students in the Wildlife Training Course.

The Northwest Aboriginal Canadian Entrepreneurs program started on April 24th. This is the first time the program is held in Tahltan Territory. Eighteen people will be taught and mentored into starting their own businesses. We are very excited about the possibilities that will come out of this program and will keep you updated.

Right: Participants of the ACE program.

Employment & Contracting Department Report

Adrian Carlick
Employment & Contracting Department
employmentdirector@tahltan.org

Once again, we had an amazing Job Fair and I would like to thank the following people in making this happen.

Kim Marion and her young crew did an amazing job putting this event together and going above and beyond in providing the community and the event attendees with an amazing experience in catering, venue management, and keeping everything in check. Thank you, Kim and Crew. It would not have been a success without you.

Thank you to our staff, Shirley Nehass and Darcie Quock, who went above and beyond in their respective duties by organizing the attendees, booths and supporting companies for last minute logistics.

Thank you to the Dease Lake School for being so accommodating and helping us out with venues, as well as thank you to the Dease Lake Recreation Centre and Dease Lake Community Club.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Job Fair Committee for their hard work and commitment:

- Aldea Lavallie, Community Relations Manager, Pretivm Resources
- Taryn Cutler (Gleason), Community Liaison, Seabridge Gold
- Freda Campbell, Education Director, TCG
- Deena Tokaryk, Communications, TNDC
- Ann Ball, Lead Indigenous and Community Relations, Galore Creek Mining Corporation
- Andrea Louie, HR, TNDC

THE JOB FAIR HAD THESE COMPANIES IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Gigametals
2. Kutcho Copper
3. GT Gold
4. Galore Creek (GCMC)
5. Seabridge Gold
6. Aben Resources
7. Metallis
8. Etruscus Resources
9. Northpac
10. Iskut Band
11. Garibaldi
12. Hudbay
13. Tahltec Drilling
14. ERM
15. AllNorth
16. PNR Exploration
17. Coast Mountain GM
18. TNDC
19. TCG
20. Progressive Ventures
21. Cleanslate
22. Hytech Drilling
23. Northern Labour
24. Services
25. Matrix Solutions
26. Newcrest/RCDC
27. Pretivm
28. Silvertip/Couer
29. Monster Industries
30. Lakelse Air Helicopters

Above: Adrian Carlick and Darcie Philana Louie in the Job Fair

When companies come to our Territory for the Job Fair from places like Toronto, Vancouver, Red Chris Mine, Silvertip Mine, Brucejack Mine, job seekers and even contracting companies gain firsthand access to important information and openings, networking, and other unique opportunities. The event also gives the companies a chance to see our communities and what our members and residents of the North go through, with all the seasonal changes, access issues for basic services, and the beauty of our homelands. They also interact with Elders, youth and our community members, granting them an understanding on the potential opportunities for and impacts to our communities from their various projects. Over 30 Tahltans received job opportunities as a result of the Job Fair last year; this year we are hoping for even more.

The Job Fair wasn't all business. We had a number of companies donate prizes for the main door prize and it was fun for many of the attendees. With too many prizes to list, here are some of the main door prizes and donating companies:

1. Mountain Bike, Seabridge Gold | Winner: Willie Williams
2. Laptop and Youth Backpack, Pretivm | Winner: Youth from Dease Lake
3. Apple Watch, TCG | Winner: Monique Pharand
4. iPad, TNDC | Winner: Wes Quock
5. iTouch, Norther Labour Services (Marge Fraser) | Winner: Keith Reid
6. Headphones, Hy Tech Drilling | Winner: Youth from Dease Lake
7. Bose Speaker, Skeena Resources | Winner: Taylor Boyes
8. Drill Set, Couer Mining | Winner: John Dennis
9. Camping gear, GCMC| Winners: Several
10. Vancouver Canucks Jerseys, Etruscus and Metallis | Winners: Gerald Quash and Lynda Quock.

Thank you to all the companies in attendance. Each brought items for prizes, which made for a lot of good fun.

PHOTOS FROM THE JOB FAIR:

IBCA IMPLEMENTATION MOVING FORWARD

With Newcrest purchasing 70% of the Red Chris Mine, it is not fully clear how they plan on implementing their management as it relates to the management structure; however, with the current management, the relationship is improved and seems to be more in the spirit of the IBCA.

We have noted a number of changes with Red Chris, including:

- Hiring and on-boarding in line with the Agreement;
- Promotions and advancement sections being implemented into procedure;
- Job Postings in collaboration with TCG in order to decrease barriers to Tahltan Members, which is in line with the Agreement;
- Contracting and Procurement processes being followed in the Agreement and working towards succession. The contracts for Air Transportation and Ground Transportation are being negotiated with RCDC during the time of writing;
- Tahltan HR positions are being changed to Tahltan Liaison positions to be more supportive of the Tahltan workforce at site and to build relationships with Tahltan Members and nearby Tahltan communities;
- All training positions are being met according to the obligations of the IBCA;
- The Training Fund Account, via the IBCA, is now available and plans are in the works to see where training may assist Tahltan Members at site to progress, which is a first in the implementation of the Agreement;
- I met with management at site in February, during the end of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting. Every Department Superintendent was called in to meet with me and talk about what the project and IBCA implementation looks like. Randall Thompson, General Manager, asked all superintendents arriving on site to meet with me and discuss the obligations, which was also a first moving forward; and
- I have met with Dr. Michele Fulcher, Manager of Anthropology and Social Assessment for Newcrest Mining, several times to discuss the past relationship, barriers, and what we expect moving forward as a Nation. Dr. Fulcher, who has many years of experience and is from Canada, was very receptive and provided many proactive ideas moving forward.

Tahltan Nation Development Corporation now has more contracts at the Red Chris Mine, both in volume and in number, than any other year since the commencement of operations. At the time of writing, TNDC has 90 employees at site. TNDC has also secured the crushing contract for both the site and the tailings impoundment, which has never happened before. We are negotiating for Air and Ground Transportation Contracts as well as Coverall provision, which was a contract that was not available before. TNDC is also providing the TIA contract without a JV partner, meaning they are 100% completing this contract on their own.

Membership & Genealogy Report

Shannon Frank
Director of Membership & Genealogy
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250-643-2037

Roxanne Ball
Membership Clerk
roxanne.ball@tahltan.org

FELLOW TAHLTANS. A CALL OUT TO UPDATE!

In order to participate in TCG's upcoming 2019 election during the Annual General Meeting, you must have updated contact information.

WHAT DO MEMBERS NEED TO DO EXACTLY?

1. Go to the TCG website at "www.tahltan.org"
2. At the top of the home page go to "Contact" and in the drop down click on "Tahltan Membership"
3. Scroll down and click on "Contact Update Form"
4. Fill out the form and click "Submit"

If you have yet to register with TCG, if you are unsure if you have ever updated your information, or if you have yet to register a child, please fill out our more comprehensive "Member Information Form ".

HOW OFTEN SHOULD MEMBERS UPDATE INFORMATION?

Updating your contact information regularly is important so we can keep you informed. Not only about elections, but critical things that matter to you and your family, such as Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) votes, jobs, training, scholarships, education, and much more.

Are there any other reasons to update information?

Yes! And this is especially true for Teenagers/ Young Adults:

Most parents when registering their children use their own email address and phone numbers. Once that child becomes 16 and is beginning to think about future education and training opportunities, it is imperative for them to update their email, phone number, and address so they too can receive the information and opportunities that are of value to them.

MARRIED RECENTLY/NAME CHANGE

If you have decided to change your legal name you must update your information and report your name change.

BABIES/CHILDREN

If you have a new baby, or if you have children that may or may not be registered, please complete and submit a new membership form on their behalf. This ensures their registration and their eligibility for TCG programming.

RELOCATED MEMBERS

If you have moved it is vital that you update your contact information to continue to receive uninterrupted news and voting information from the TCG.

DEATHS/CONDOLENCES

It is important for our vital statistics to be accurate; please register the passing of any Tahltan members.

Language Director Report

Edōsdi – Judy Thompson
Language Director

The Tahltan Nation has been receiving grants from First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) for over a decade now. FPCC is a provincial Crown Corporation formed in 1990 by the government of British Columbia to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language, and Culture Program. The mandate of FPCC is to assist BC First Nations in the revitalization of their languages, cultures, and arts.

Specific to the Tahltan Language and Culture Program, FPCC has been funding our two nests in Iskut and Dease Lake since they both opened in 2014. FPCC also provided funding to get our Tahltan Language and Culture Council, Dah Dẕāhge Nodesīde, started in 2014.

Recently, FPCC has been able to provide more language funding to BC First Nations due to a $50 million investment by the provincial government. Our language program now receives funding that not only supports our nests (Aboriginal Language Initiative, Language Nest Program), but also for programs through the B.C. Language Initiative, and funding for FirstVoices, a digital platform developed by FPCC, which provides online tools for Tahltan speakers wherever they live.

FPCC has been able to increase language program grants by 178 percent. Until this increase in funding, nations were only able to apply for two grants per year and nations were competing for limited funding. With multi-year funding, bigger grants, and fewer limits on the number of grants that nations can receive, BC's First Nations communities are no longer competing for much-needed resources. In terms of our language program, we have more security and stability to make real progress towards the revitalization and reclamation of our language.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

TLEGO'ĪN (TELEGRAPH CREEK)

We have been finding different avenues to bring more language and culture into the community. For example, we have hosted a few language and culture nights, an Elders gathering and a Clan Night.

Our language sessions have benefited all attendees as we shared our knowledge with each other. A few highlights were playing Tah'ṣ̄ilah (Bingo) and singing with Rocky.

Clan Night was a huge success as many people came out to make shirts with their crest on it. It was so successful we did a second evening! It was very exciting to see everyone display their artistic talent.

Every session has been well received and we look forward to hosting more events. We will be working with the Rec Centre staff to share our knowledge through stories and language sessions and are available to assist in cultural events as needed.

TĀTL'AH (DEASE LAKE)

On February 4th, we held an Elders luncheon. We listened to old recordings and had some good discussions about our ancestors and their way of life. We have a lot to be proud of, including all of the values and beliefs that have been passed on and continue to be passed down through generations. We are hoping to be able to provide some audio recordings to family soon. At this time, we do not have a Language and Culture Assistant for the Dease Lake office.

We hosted a Clan Night on February 6th. We were very impressed by the artistic talent in placing the available designs and colours to make personalized t-shirts representing everyone's clan – Ch'iyone and Tsesk'iye. Very well done everyone.

On March 20th, we held a luncheon for parents and children of the Language Nest. We are pleased to report that two more children – family Deegan Nole and Colby Miller, parents and grandparents – have been recruited into our Language Nest. We now have six children registered in K'asbā'e T'oh Language Nest.

Above: Dease Lake Clan Night
Left: Telegraph Creek Clan Night

COMMUNITY UPDATES CONT.

ŁUWECHON (ISKUT)

Dzenēs hoti'ē tsedze dahdene!

It was certainly a busy time for the Iskut Language team as we were in our teaching practicums throughout April. Tanya was in Iskut with the Klappan School and Patricia was in Telegraph at the Tahltan school. It was very exciting for us and for the children whom we were teaching. It was hard to leave the students we were working with at the end of the month.

We are looking forward to being back doing our community activities. Watch out for our announcements such as meetings, another Clan Night, etc. on posters in the community, on Facebook, and at the Language House behind the Band Office.

We had some wicked designs from our last Clan Night on March 13th and indeed, we have some creative people making their own designs! We made t-shirts that said, Ch'iyōne esdāhs'ēhi ("I'm from the Wolf Clan") and Tseskiye esdāhs'ēhi ("I'm from the Crow Clan").

Be proud of who you are and where you come from!

We look forward to seeing you in our language sessions!

If anyone would like to ask questions regarding the language, give us a call at (250) 234-3339 or email us at iskutlanguage@tahltan.org or iskutlanguage2@tahltan.org.

BC LANGUAGES INITIATIVES GRANT

BCLI ELDERS LANGUAGE & CULTURE GATHERING – MARCH 31, 2019

On March 31st, 2019 the language program hosted an Elders luncheon in Dease Lake. Along with a delicious lunch, there were some presentations on projects related to language and culture that other groups are working on.

This was the first-time speakers and knowledge keepers from all three communities came together to share a meal and talk about our language under our program. We plan to host these larger language and culture gatherings for all three communities together every 3–4 months in different locations for the rest of this year. The goal of these luncheons is to share knowledge and resources across generations. The next one is being planned for Telegraph Creek.

In the Fall, also under this BCLI Grant, the Language and Culture Program organized luncheons in Dease Lake, Iskut and Terrace for Elders to visit, share a meal, listen to old audio recordings and talk about Tahltan language and culture. There are more, monthly gatherings planned for each of the three communities in Tahltan Territory over the next year as well.

Above: Iskut Clan Night

Above: BCLI Elders Gathering

FIRST VOICES

The First Voices website https://www.firstvoices.com/ is a digital archive, containing words, phrases and language information on many of the languages indigenous to BC. Tahltan has been missing from this site, and our researchers and audio technicians Oscar Dennis, Hayle Gallup and Kathy Cottrell have been working diligently editing and cataloging audio files to put on to a Tahltan portal on this site. Once the Tahtlan portal is up, it will eventually also be available as a downloadable app, which means you will not have to be online all the time in order to hear Tahltan language.

Language staff will be training in best practices for recording new audio in May to add to the Tahltan First Voices portal.

TRAINING UPDATES

FEBRUARY 13–18, 2019

The adult learners in the UVic Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization program had their last session of Tāttān language classes with Odelia Dennis and Oscar Dennis as Instructors.

MARCH 14–20, 2019

The adult learners in the UVic Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization program completed a Practicum Seminar course with Marylou Fritch. Marylou is an experienced teacher, and teacher trainer who has been a part of the Dease Lake community for decades. This course prepared the students for their practicum placements in April 2019.

APRIL 2019

The adult learners in the University of Victoria's Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization program each partnered with a local teacher to complete a 3-week teaching practicum. Each one brought language to the classroom in the school they were at in their own way, with their own lessons.

We're so proud of these dedicated learners and look forward to seeing them walk across the stage to collect their Diplomas at graduation in Victoria on **June 10, 2019!**

We are looking into offering a similar program again in the Fall of 2020 so check in with your local Language and Culture Coordinator and check out the Tahltan language website for updates.

MAY 16–17, 2019

Patricia Louie, Tanya Louie, and Erma Bourquin will be attending a Language Conference in Kamloops BC, hosted by the Chief Atahm School. This is part of ongoing training supplied by the First People's Culture Council Language Nest program for Language Nest staff.

MAY 16–17, 2019

Odelia Dennis, Angela Dennis and Amber Blenkiron will be attending Indigenous Language teaching training in Edmonton, AB, led by Dr. Greymorning, who developed an immersion teaching method that he uses successfully in his Nation's language programs in Montana.

PERSONAL PROFILES

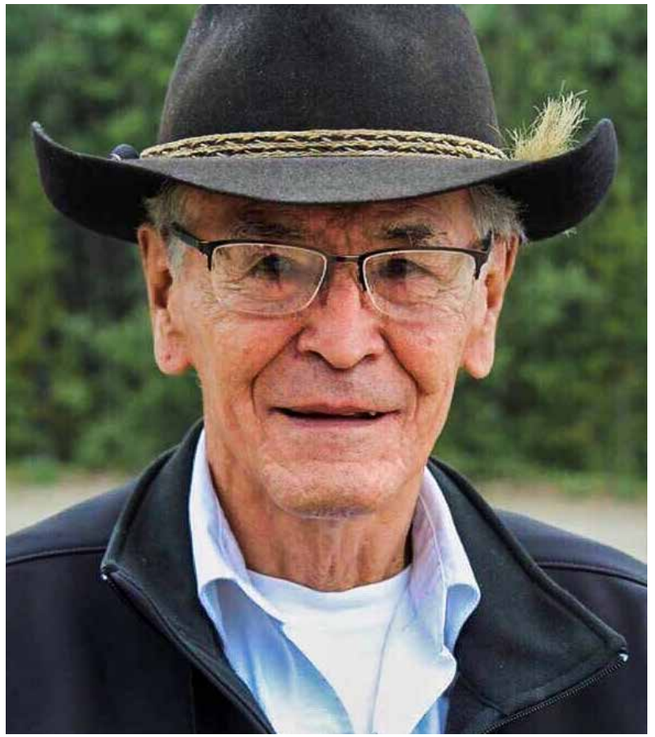
40 — Elder | Pat Etzerza

42 — Culture | Clements Brace

43 — Healthy Active Tahltans | Caden Jakesta, Charlotte Etzerza

45 — Inspiring Young Tahltans | Kole Cardinal, Hayle Gallup

Elder
Pat Etzerza



> **Bad things may happen. But they do not have to define us.**

Pat Etzerza's father is Dick Jackson and his mother is Kitty Etzerza. He is Tsesk'iya, and a member of the Eth'eni family. Kitty had a serious illness so it was her mother, Mary Etzerza (nee Eth'eni), who raised Pat. They lived in Telegraph Creek, where Grandma Mary spoke Tahltan to her grandson. And she also chose his name – Sha Ma Tu.

Pat loved growing up in Telegraph Creek. But when he was ten years of age, the Indian Agent convinced Mary that she was too old to take care of him. He promised to deliver Pat to his Uncle George Etzerza in Atlin. But his promise was a lie. He took Pat directly to the Carcross Residential School, where the young man was left to spend the next four years of his life. Pat then attended Grade 9 at the Yukon Hall, and he spent the last two years of schooling at the St. Angus Hostel.

At seventeen years old, Pat left school and went to work with his cousin, Buddy Etzerza. Pat moved to Golden, and then to Prince Rupert, where he stayed for twenty years. He worked on the pipeline, at the pulp mill, and as a fisherman, but one day Pat made up his mind: He was going home.

When he arrived in Telegraph Creek, our Elders renewed his faith in Tahltan traditional ways. Roy and Bobby Quock, and also Jerry Quock in Iskut, all mentored their nephew. They helped Pat improve his hunting, fishing and survival skills. Bruce Creyke taught his friend how to work with horses, to wrangle, and to guide hunters towards big game.

It was around this time in his life when Pat was approached by Sheila Frank. She encouraged him to use the Native Education Program to further his schooling. Pat upgraded and then attended UBC for one year. But Vancouver was not where he wanted to be.

Pat returned to our Territory, where he worked as a Social Worker for the Iskut Band for four years. When an opening became available, he entered the political arena. Pat held the position of Chief of Iskut for two terms.

Pat is an articulate, impressive speaker, and he remained active in defending Tahltan Territory and encouraging the Tahltan people. After the Tahltan Tribal Council was formed, things really started to happen and Pat was eventually elected as President. When Pat and others saw the abundance of activity in our Territory, their group established the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation. It was an entity that provided training to many of our people. Pat was instrumental in securing the Dease Lake Clinic. He became a spokesperson for the Elders Committee and he was one of the initial Directors for Northern Native Broadcasting. His multitude of achievements is remarkable.

Pat has served our Nation in many ways, but he is particularly revered for being one of the few remaining fluent speakers of our Tahltan language. He has generously shared his knowledge with many students, both young and old.

Pat admits that he used to work hard at drinking too. But when he became a father, he confesses, "I looked into the mirror one day and I didn't like what I saw." He has now been sober for thirty-five years and is grateful for his sobriety every single day.

Pat is thankful that he survived being torn from his grandmother's arms. He learned how to cope with loneliness. Residential school was rough. But Pat was able to forgive and he chose not to dwell on the past. He is pleased that he was taught to work hard, and relieved that he was brought up to be respectful to others.

Pat recollects packing water and piling wood for the Elders. If they rewarded him with a piece of bannock and jam, he would load their entire wood box!

He looks back on the days when they had fresh fruit only in the summer when the boat came in, or when the mail was brought in from Atlin. Pat remembers when most families had nothing. There were no roads, no electricity, no running water, and no conveniences. Everyone had to work hard for all that they had. And they gained pride for all that they achieved. These memories are both enjoyable and worrisome. Pat fears that our habits of showering children with gifts and promises of grandeur is crippling them from having a successful future.

He also does not mind sharing his point of view.

"We have a reason to be here. Look around. We drink this water. All these plants and animals, they put food on our table."

Pat has suffered through persecution and oppression, and is humbled to have come out on top. His smile and laughter are contagious; his kind and gentle spirit are undeniable. Pat Etzerza is stronger than he ever thought he could be.

Culture
Clements Eric Brace

As Clements raises his rifle, the animal becomes clear in his sights. He makes the shot and watches for movement. Nothing. The moose's spirit has left its body. As one life is lost, many others will prosper. Clements' hunting tradition was passed onto him from his grandparents and is a cornerstone of Tahltan culture.

Clements Eric Brace resides in Dease Lake. His Tahltan name is De'chuwé which means porcupine. His parents are Anitta Tashoots and Roger Brace. His grandparents on his mother's side are Suzy Jack and Clements Tashoots. He has one twin brother named Roger Brace. Clements is Ch'iyōne clan and originates from the Kadouke' Family.

Clements grew up learning traditional Tahltan values and techniques. At the age of five, he caught his first fish using only what he had available: a stick, some fishing line, and a wooden stick bobber. Using only what was available gave him a true appreciation for what he has. He doesn't take anything for granted.

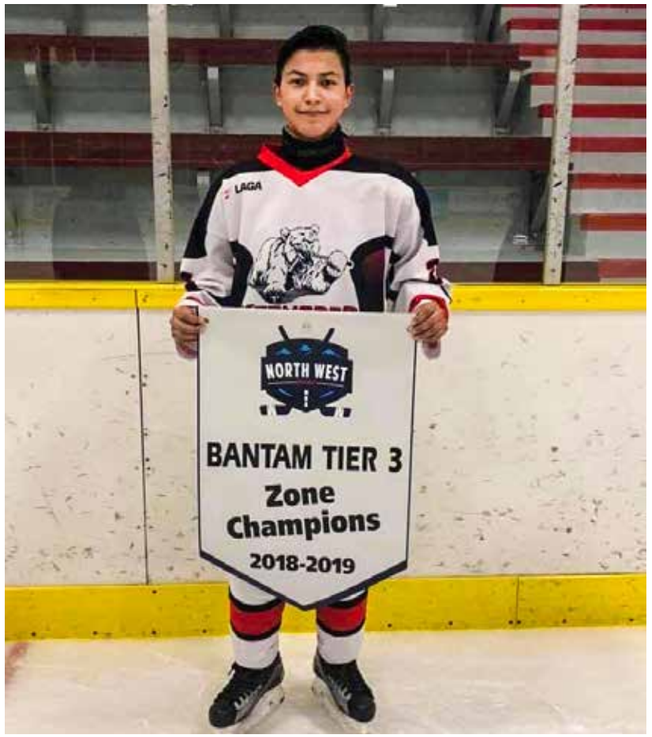
While growing up, Clements and his brother would carry fish three miles to their grandparents' fish camp near Glenora. They would trap rabbits and groundhogs, hunt grouse, and cut wood for their Elders. Clements says that he grew up helping Elders and that they are a critical part of Tahltan culture. Elders taught him many things, which helped make him into the man he is today.

Clements' Elders taught him more than just how to hunt animals. They also taught him to observe the animals for any irregularities in their movements or the way they act. This is a traditional way of monitoring the animals to make sure the population is healthy. When you spend so much time in the woods watching them, you get a keen sense if anything changes. He learned to watch the animals' body gestures, because that speaks more than anything.

At the age of 13, Clements shot his first moose. He says that hunting came naturally to him. His Grandma and Grandpa taught him to skin and prepare the animal the traditional way, leaving no waste. This is a form of respect towards the animal. Clements says there is no better feeling than hunting. It gives people the feeling of accomplishment. Knowing you are feeding your family is amazing, it makes you feel like you are truly doing something right.

Clements has been through many scary situations out on the land, including being feet away from a curious grizzly bear. These experiences made him into a more confident, aware individual. He says that everyone should go hunting and get out onto the land so they can have the feeling of accomplishment too. Not everyone will have close bear encounters, or hike 60 lbs of salmon out of the woods, but getting in touch with nature is a great first step to practicing Tahltan culture.

Healthy Active Tahltans
Caden Jakesta



The winter is cold and the ice is hard. Caden straps on his skates. Frozen wind stings his face while he watches his breath dissipate into the frigid air. This won't stop him. This Healthy Active Tahltan lives and breathes hockey.

Practice makes perfect, and this is something Caden knows well. His older brother, Robert, is teaching him the art of stick handling today. There is no indoor arena in Iskut, so they prepare to face another day outside in the bitter cold. It is just one of many sessions on the long road to make another hockey dream come true.

Caden Jakesta is a 14-year-old Tahltan who grew up in Iskut and recently moved to Terrace. His mother is Rhoda Quock and his father is Peter Jakesta. His grandparents on his mother's side are Jenny Quock and the late Robert Quock. His grandparents on his father's side are Peter Jakesta Sr. and Linda Rygaard. Caden is part of the Ch'iyōne clan and a descendant of the Carlick and Ts'imgalt'ede families.

Caden grew up in the small town of Iskut, BC. At the age of 4, he put on his first pair of skates. His father, Peter, played hockey throughout his life and passed the legacy onto his children. Caden says this is what created his passion towards hockey. While growing up in Iskut, there was no indoor arena. He was forced to practice only in the winter and outside. He would then travel to Dease Lake to play organized hockey.

After playing in Dease Lake until the age of 12, Caden started playing for the Hazelton Bulldogs. He would travel to towns such as 100 Mile House and Merritt. In search of even tougher competition, he moved to Terrace with his family. This move proves what a true hockey family he is proud to be a part of.

Terrace's Kermode rep team houses some of the best players from the region. Caden has been playing for them for a year now. Last season, they played in the provincials and won third place. After provincials, he played in the Whitehorse All Native Hockey Tournament for the Tahltan Selects Jamboree Division. Directly afterwards, he went to Prince George to play for the Northwest Eagles. Every summer he attends the Penticton Hockey School, where competition is tough because he plays against kids much older than himself.

Staying competitive means cultivating a complete and healthy lifestyle. Caden attends dry land training weekly and goes to the gym three times a week. He also says that he eats right, watches hockey tips on YouTube, and studies hard in school. On top of all this, he also plays softball in the summer and recently acquired rollerblades to further practice his skills. All these positive habits add up to a complete individual who has lots of energy and is driven to accomplish his goals. He is a perfect example of a true Healthy Active Tahltan.

Healthy Active Tahltans
Charlotte Etzerza

Left: Char, excited on Day 1 of her weight-loss journey.

Right: Results after three months!

> **If I want to be successful at anything in life, then I have to be successful within myself.**

Charlotte Etzerza is the daughter of Carl Etzerza, the granddaughter of Belfry Etzerza and Mary Low, and the great-granddaughter of Emma Brown. Her mother, Dorothy (Pahl), was a member of the Tsimshian Nation. "Char," who is a member of the Tahltan Band, was recently honoured to receive her mother's hereditary Gitga'at name, "Bilhaa dm ne'ex," which means "Abalone Fin."

Char's parents, who were both survivors of residential schools, met in Miller Bay Indian Hospital and raised a family of five children: Patsy, John, Bill, Carl Jr., and Charlotte, or "Boots" as her dad called her.

The family was always athletic, and many of them took to playing badminton quite seriously. The boys played hockey for the Nanook Warriors for a few years, and the entire family spent plenty of time outdoors — hiking, fishing, and canoeing. Char backpacked with her father from Buckley Lake, over to Mount Edziza, and on to Mowdade Lake. They also canoed the Upper Stikine with her sister and family friend Mike, and they rode horseback to view the canyon with Willie and Grace Williams.

Char has always been active and athletic so it came as quite the shock when she found herself weighing 300 pounds. It was a turning point in her life. Char was in disbelief and questioned, "How did I let this happen?"

Char set a goal for herself and set out to achieve it. She acknowledged that in order to lose weight, she would have to find the passion to get to the gym. As she had quit smoking with sheer willpower seven years earlier, she knew that she had the strength to conquer yet another challenge.

First and foremost, she recognized that the real success of her story was not going to be about the loss of weight. It would be about her journey to rid herself of the angry and negative baggage that had gotten her there in the first place.

Char admits that losing weight has not been easy. Her personal journey has encountered many twists, turns, steep hills, and slippery passages. When she lost her parents, it was devastating. Char turned to food to fill the emptiness. But Char became determined to create change in her life. She knew that, in order to grow, it was imperative that she accept the cruelties of life and learn to move forward.

All of us have encountered hardships and heartbreak, and many have experienced intense life storms. Char believes that the pain of facing these adversities is how we learn to navigate this highway we call Life. In the past eight months, Char has successfully lost fifty-two pounds. Her journey is inspirational and her message is powerful. "Reclaim your baggage. EMPTY IT. Then refill it with the things that bring you great joy."

Inspiring Young Tahltans
Kole Cardinal

Left: Kole, bringing his fighting spirit to his graduation ceremony

Right: Celebrating an awesome catch!

"If we learn to support one another, we will grow stronger.

Kole Cardinal was raised in Smithers. His parents are Ron and Cindy Cardinal. His grandparents are Sidney Creyke, Minnie Ball, and also Bill Cardinal of the Cree Nation. Kole is Tsesk'iya, and a member of the Cawtoonma Family.

Every summer Kole's family travels north to visit family. They stay in his Great Grandma Opal's cabin at Tahltan to work on salmon. Kole spent many afternoons hiking Tahltan Territory. He has matured into a skilled hunter.

Sports always played a significant role in Kole's life. He first gained notoriety as a kick boxer. He won four gold medals at the Tiger Balm International Kick Boxing competition and held the title of BC Champion at the Shogun Dojo for three consecutive years. In 2011, Kole was invited to join Team Canada for an international competition held in Ireland. It was the year of his high school graduation and he forfeited the opportunity to concentrate on his studies.

Kole's true love turned to hockey. He played defense for the Smithers Storm, where his popularity, team spirit, and competitiveness earned him the position of Captain. His team won Zones and went on to attain provincial recognition in Cranbrook. Kole also played for Aboriginal Team BC at an international competition held in Saskatoon. Over the years he collected multiple trophies and was asked to join several Junior teams.

While growing up, Kole spent many hours with his Uncle George Ball. He admired Georgie, who taught his nephew to "Keep your chest out and your chin down." Kole also holds great admiration for his Uncle Terry. Terry taught Kole to push forward through diversity and to never give up. These words would prove to be invaluable.

January 3rd, 2018 will remain etched in Kole's mind forever. He was working as a diamond drill helper at Brucejack Mine when he slipped and suffered an injury. Kole was flown to Terrace Hospital. The next few hours were shocking. While conducting a routine ultrasound, the doctors discovered a cancerous tumour which was inflamed and aggressive. They would have to operate, immediately.

The next few months were unbearable. It was devastating to learn that the cancer had spread into Kole's lower back. In July of last year, the doctors laid Kole's intestines aside to remove forty lymph nodes and scrap from his backbone. Kole's immune system was compromised and he was kept in quarantine for six months.

Kole is now able to venture out. He feels humbled and appreciative for the outpouring of support received from the Tahltan and Cree Nations, and wants to extend his heartfelt gratitude for the kindness and generosity extended to him and his family. Kole proudly credits his girlfriend, Brianna, for his recovery. "I couldn't have made it without her."

Kole is getting stronger and more determined every day and is an inspiration to all of us. Kole Cardinal is twenty-four years old and his handsome smile can light up a room.

Inspiring Young Tahltans
Hayle Gallup

Hayle Gallup's mother is May Quock, her grandmother is Bernice Quock, and her great grandparents are Edna and Henry Quock. Hayle is twenty-four years old and from the Ch'iyōne clan.

This June, Hayle will graduate from the University of Victoria with a degree in Elementary Education. In September, she will move to Dease Lake to enroll in the 2020 Tahltan Language diploma program at the Northern Lake Community College.

Hayle's passion is being an advocate and role model for indigenous youth. She works to help them find their passions and true selves, and shares skills on how to advocate for oneself. At university, she decided that becoming a teacher would be the best way to turn her passion into a career. She focused her studies on education and language. She bolstered her learning with community work. In Victoria, Hayle volunteers at organizations for indigenous youth including Mathmedia, Science Ventures, and Back to School Picnic.

Volunteering takes her all over Vancouver Island, granting her opportunities to work with many First Nations. Her volunteering grants her opportunities to inspire and motivate indigenous youth. She encourages them to be themselves and be proud of it. She offers herself as example by showing how to "authentically be oneself."

Her example is powerful. Last year, Storyhive recognized Hayle's hard work, her studiousness and strength, and granted her funding to lead a documentary, The Camp(us). Hayle's documentary addresses the impact of residential schools and explores how indigenous university students can reclaim education to create new narratives for themselves. It comes out at the end of the summer.

The Camp(us) highlights language revitalization, Hayle's other major passion. She is interested in anything that helps revitalize Tahltan language. On top of her studies and volunteering, she helps the Tahltan Language Department develop curricula for Grades K-8 in School District 87. She works with the Language Department on the First Voices Portal as well. Hayle pursues her passion by choosing to continue her studies, but now she can focus on her own culture and language.

To earn a university degree, Hayle had to sacrifice culture. She had to be away from family, away from Elders, away from Tahltan, away from the people and places who could teach her the most about herself as an indigenous person. Now that she has her university education, she will go home and learn who she is. "Now it's time to get a Tahltan education," she says, "and to find my identity."

Hayle believes language offers a direct route to addressing identity issues. "When we solve who we are, and accept ourselves, that sets our foundation. We are not trying to figure out who we are anymore," she says. "Colonization took our identity away from us. It continues to keep us stuck, instead of letting us be ourselves." Through language, she believes, Tahltans can find themselves. They can flourish and grow: as individuals, as people, and as Tahltans. With a firm identity, youth will have the courage to travel, to go study, and to experience life to its fullest.

Hayle advises Tahltan Youth to keep taking risks with their education:

"Do things you are passionate about and know you will be amazing at. It's a different society now; we have room for people with passion and creativity and ingenuity."

All-Native Hockey Tournament

Healthy Active Tahltans (HATs) has a deep belief in the value of physical activity. Being active provides us with lots of energy and allows our minds to think clearly. Maintaining a healthy diet amplifies these effects while helping people reach their fitness goals. Additionally, activities bring families together and help foster real relationships with people. When we go through strenuous activities together, it creates a bond that cannot be duplicated.

This is why we have worked hard to be able to host events and provide financial aid to many Tahltans that are pursuing a healthy active lifestyle. For the 2019 Whitehorse All Native Hockey Tournament, HATs was able to provide all seven of the Tahltan teams that participated with $2500.00.

Tahltan teams excelled in the tournament, with three teams making it to the Finals of their Division:

- **The Tahltan Bear Dogs** | B Division
- **The Sawtooth Predators** | C Division
- **The Jr. Tahltan Selects** | Youth Division

HATs also aided the numerous Tahltans that participated in the Vancouver Sun Run. As the HATs initiative grows, we will strive to be able to provide support for more Tahltans so they can see what living a healthy active lifestyle can do for them.

TNDC Update

Tahltan Nation Development Corporation (TNDC) is striving to hire as many Tahltans as possible, implementing initiatives for the 2019 work season to provide experience and on-the-job training for Tahltans new to the workforce.

Peter Arendt
CEO – TNDC

The 2019 work season has begun, and early indications are positive for our Heavy Construction and Camp Services (Spatsizi Remote Services – SRS) divisions. In exploration and mining, TNDC is in discussions with several companies about equipment, labour and camp services to support their seasonal programs.

At Red Chris Mine, TNDC will continue the road maintenance contract while TIA construction anticipates the addition of a second shift. Red Chris camp occupancy is estimated to reach 300, benefitting SRS, which manages the camp services contract.

In other sectors, TNDC will be contracted by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to conduct fire reclamation work around Telegraph Creek. TNDC will also resume work on projects put on hold when the wildfires broke out, including BC Hydro's Iskut Transmission Line Extension and the Telegraph Creek Waste Transfer Station. TNDC is also working with the Tahltan Band Council to resurface the Telegraph Creek airstrip and to clear and prepare a site for new homes in Dease Lake.

Fostering employment, training and skills development of Tahltan members remains a priority. The positive outlook for the work season is fueling need for additional personnel. TNDC posted employment opportunities in March and April across business areas for both entry level and skilled positions and both full time and seasonal.

TNDC is striving to hire as many Tahltans as possible, implementing initiatives for the 2019 work season to provide experience and on-the-job training for Tahltans new to the workforce. Initiatives include hiring entry level and general labourer positions to work at our Dease Lake facility and project sites from April until September.

In April, TNDC conducted a week long mine introduction and equipment training program at TNDC's Red Chris TIA construction site. Participants learned important safety protocols and gained hands-on experience operating heavy equipment. TNDC will have a roster of Tahltans with the introductory knowledge and skills for entry level positions on project sites.

TNDC met with many keen Tahltans at the April Job Fair to discuss these job opportunities. We are pleased with the response and are reviewing applications. Tahltans and local residents are encouraged to join our contact list to receive Employment Bulletins – email communications@tndc.ca.

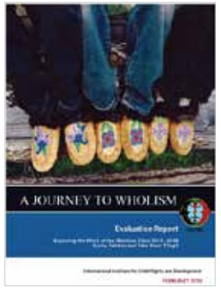
TNDC looks forward to working with Tahltan Leadership, industry and our business partners to deliver a successful 2019 work season. TNDC will carry out its work with a focus on safety, reliability and high-quality service.

Above: TNDC at the April Job Fair

3 Nations Update

Nadine Handel
SWWG Coordinator

Above: Regional Direction's Report



Above: A Journey to Wholism – Evaluation Report

As the 3 Nations look ahead to the spring, exciting news is on the horizon. 3 Nations reached a significant milestone this year with the contracting of our first ever SWWG Coordinator. We are pleased to say that Nadine Handel, of Lower Post, was awarded the contract for SWWG Coordinator. Nadine came on board with us in January, attended our SWWG meeting in Vancouver in February, and is busy working in support of the SWWG reps. The next SWWG meeting is planned for May in Atlin, at which time activities will be planned as we prepare for a roll-out of initiatives over the summer.

In addition, Michelle and Phillip Cook, who are well known to our communities, are returning to our team. The Cooks visited all of our communities in 2018, talked with community members about the work of 3 Nations, and then prepared a very important piece of work entitled **A Journey to Wholism – Evaluation Report Exploring the Work of the 3 Nations 2015–2018**. Their evaluation of the work of the 3 Nations was instrumental in achieving a renewed partnership with Government to continue and enhance the work of 3 Nations. We are very excited they have agreed to work with us again, this time directly with the communities to develop a new Directions Report. An overriding belief of SWWG has always been that no one knows solutions better than the people themselves. When SWWG first began, we went to our communities for dreams, solutions and directions. In fact, 55 directions were given to SWWG, and we are proud to say that 90% of all the community directions have been implemented in at least one community. A number of years have passed since we first received that original direction, and we couldn't think of two more well-suited people to help us seek new directions from our communities than Michelle and Phillip Cook. Starting this summer, you will see the Cooks in your community and they will be seeking your input for the solutions and directions that you think SWWG needs to adopt to meet the evolving social and cultural needs of our communities.

As an organization, the 3 Nations Society has been developing under the guidance of the 3 Nations Representatives and the direction of 3 Nations leadership. In January 2019, we contracted the services of a consulting firm to help develop a Governance Manual and Operations Manual to guide our practices. Our governance and financial practices have grown to the point where the 3 Nations leadership authorized the hiring of an Executive Director. A Human Resource firm has been contracted to oversee the advertising and short-listing of candidates and a hiring committee has been struck to undertake the hiring process. It is anticipated that by summer 3 Nations will have an Executive Director to help guide the implementation of our Strategic Plan and to respond to the new Directions Report that the Cooks develop following their time with our community members.

Feddie Louie continues to lead the 3 Nations' efforts on creating new opportunities for wildlife partnerships and changes on the land. The 3 Nations' wildlife team continues the provincial pilot the "Collaborative Stewardship Framework" in this area, working towards better wildlife management for our territories. There is significant progress through the partnerships with BC to better define how to work together and enhance the 3 Nations' involvement in decision-making.

The work of the 3 Nations continues to grow and evolve significantly since the early days and has resulted in sustainable funding partnerships that will ensure the progress of the 3 Nations' model, collective solutions, and lifting community and cultural strengths. We look forward to an exciting summer as we move forward and continue to strengthen the social and cultural fabric of our communities.

Moose Hide 2019

PROVINCIAL GATHERING & DAY OF FASTING

Violence against women and children is unacceptable and there is no place in our communities for any woman or child to feel unsafe.

The Moose Hide Campaign Event with Youth stands against violence towards women and children. This year President Chad Norman Day, TCG Director of Education & Training Freda Campbell, and four of our young men attended the provincial gathering and day of fasting.

IMPORTANT NEWS

54 — Legal Update | Skii Km Laxhaa Case
55 — Industry Report | Newcrest

Legal Update
Skii Km Lax Hah Case

Tahltan Central Government defends Skii Km Lax Hah legal challenge to Brucejack Mine revenue sharing agreement

The TCG is heading to court to defend a new lawsuit filed by the "Tsetsaut/Skii Km Lax Hah Nation", or TSKLH Nation, against the Tahltan Nation's Brucejack Mine revenue sharing agreement. The Brucejack Mine is an underground gold mine located just south of Treaty Creek on the southern boundary of Tahltan Territory. The mine access road is in Tahltan Territory and the mine construction and operation impacts Tahltan Territory, Rights and Cultural Values. The TCG, through THREAT, participated in the environmental assessment and permitting process for the mine from 2013–2018. In June 2018, the TCG negotiated a revenue-sharing agreement with B.C.. The Agreement provides Tahltans with 15% of the net mineral tax revenue from the mine, with another 15% going to the Nisga'a Nation. The Tahltan funds are shared between the TCG, Iskut Band and Tahltan Band, to support services delivered to Tahltan members.

The TSKLH Nation is a small group of about 30 people who have previously identified themselves as the Skii Km Lax Hah wilp of the Gitsxan Nation. More recently, the Skii Km Lax Hah added "Tsetsaut" to their name and now claim to be a separate Nation from Gitsxan with rights over an expanded, asserted territory that reaches north to Mt. Klappan in Tahltan Territory and includes the Brucejack mine site. Based on this new claim, the TSKLH have demanded that B.C. give them a revenue-sharing agreement for the mine. B.C. has refused to do so because, in part, it is not clear who the TSKLH Nation represents, and the TSKLH (unlike the Tahltan and Nisga'a) does not provide any governance, programs, or services to its members. The TSKLH Nation lawsuit challenges this decision and, in addition, asks the court to set aside the Tahltan and Nisga'a revenue sharing agreements.

The TCG has retained legal counsel to defend this case and filed the Tahltan defense in court on April 10, 2019. Our arguments will defend the revenue-sharing agreement and dispute the TSKLH claim to Tahltan Territory. The TCG's lawyer is confident in our case and is working closely with counsel for the Nisga'a Nation. Further updates will be provided as the case proceeds.

Industry Report
Newcrest

There is something special about meeting new friends, getting to know each other, working well together and sharing experiences. One of the many wonderful experiences we have had from our initial time in Tahltan Territory is the very warm welcome and support we have received from the local community and people. Your invitation to attend the Job Fair in Dease Lake was very much appreciated and we really enjoyed meeting people during the day and at the dinner. Our CEO, Sandeep Biswas, was warmly welcomed the following week in Iskut by Chief Marie Quock and we are looking forward to more time together.

There are many ideas and innovations we can all bring to Red Chris' next chapter to ensure our presence on your Territory is really positive. This includes things like ensuring the health and safety of Tahltan staff and contractors so they return home safely, developing and strengthening our relationships with the Tahltan communities, and making sure that any Tahltan person who works with us has a clear career path with professional development goals and advancement opportunities.

It is also really important to us that, in our operations and exploration activities, we are active participants with Tahltans in social, environmental and heritage management. We wish to work with Tahltan leadership and members to carry out our operations and exploration activities in a manner that is respectful of Tahltan lands and waters, heritage, knowledge and culture. This includes the implementation of cultural awareness training for our people as we are new to Tahltan Territory and do not want to make mistakes because we do not understand something or its context or history. This training will be delivered to all Red Chris contractors and staff.

We know it will take time to put in place improvements – to see what works well, to get things right together. We have 100-day plans to start things off, and longer-term plans for sustained improvement.

Whether we are at day one, day 100, day 1,000 or day 10,000, our focus will always be on keeping our people safe, respected and engaged. Implementation of elements of Newcrest's long-term Safety Transformation plan will be a priority. Our Safety Transformation was introduced in 2015 with an aim of zero fatalities and life-changing injuries. Building a strong safety culture takes time and Newcrest Red Chris will work closely with the Tahltans to achieve this through continuous improvement.

For example, we enable our people to make risk-based decisions and empower them to 'stop the job' if it is not safe. We have thankfully remained fatality-free for the past 3.5 years. While we are pleased with that outcome, we know that we can never be complacent when it comes to safety and people's lives.

Another area of great importance to Newcrest is sustainability. In 2017 we were admitted into the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), an international organisation dedicated to a safe, fair and sustainable mining and metals industry. Through our membership we aspire to be industry leaders in sustainable mining – this translates to a commitment to conducting our activities ethically and transparently. Like safety, sustainability is an area where we will continue to strive for improvement across the business.

Similarly, creating employment and business opportunities and being part of valuable learning and development is important. As Red Chris progresses, there will be new and interesting jobs at all levels as well as many more occasions to be part of innovations and to learn new technologies. We will be working closely with Adrian Carlick on these opportunities and on implementation of the Red Chris Impacts, Benefits and Co-Management Agreement. We also look forward to continuing to work in collaboration with Freda Campbell to attract talent to Red Chris.

Newcrest is finalising the transaction with Imperial and planning across the broad areas including health, safety, environment, community relations, cultural heritage, human resources, engineering, exploration and supply. This is a time of change for Newcrest, Red Chris and for Tahltans. We are excited to be working with the Tahltan people and look forward to learning from each other and strengthening our relationship.

Please be in contact with ideas, concerns and hellos!

Meduh Cho

TAHLTAN
Central Government

SPRING NEWSLETTER
2019

/tahltangovernment

Follow us and stay up-to-date with Tahltan Nation news, events, and job postings.