TAHLTAN
Central Council

JANUARY **2015**
KHA·YŌ DĪ·DZE | Middle of Winter Month

TAHLTAN QUARTERLY NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tahltan Nation,

It has been an incredibly eventful few months since our last newsletter in September. I would like to thank the staff at the Tahltan Central Council, Tahltan Band, the Iskut Band and all the workers and families for all your contributions in 2014. The Tahltan Nation is truly grateful to you for your ongoing hard work, patience and determination – Meduh.

It is imperative that our people continue to engage with Tahltan leadership during this important time in our Nation. We have made several improvements to the way we communicate and share information with our people. For example, we are now able to live-broadcast some our community meetings over the Internet to enable Tahltans anywhere to witness and participate in important discussions.

Furthermore, this November we launched our new engagement website, called Hodudēhi (www.hodudehi.ca), which means "Let's Talk" in our language. The website is intended to be a safe place for Tahltans to come together to learn and talk about initiatives and projects going on in our territory. I encourage you to check it out.

A project that the Tahltan Central Council remains committed to actively communicating with membership about is the Red Chris Mine. In October, we conducted a series of community meetings, along with an in-depth survey to get an understanding of how Tahltans felt about the project. Through such meetings, surveys and regular communication, the Tahltan Central Council has remained committed to acting on behalf of the Nation as a unified voice. A further round of community meetings regarding the Red Chris Mine will be taking place February 16th to 24th. Please watch for specific locations and times so you can participate in these important discussions – we are looking forward to seeing you.

Another new initiative is the Tahltan Nation's endorsement and participation in the Healthy Active Natives (HANs) movement. We held our first events in Iskut and Telegraph Creek in early October. The first event was a 3km hike with students, school staff, and community members. The following day we organized a hike at the Tahltan Village outside Telegraph Creek where our members (including Elders) hiked up above the village where we gathered together and prayed collectively for the health and well-being of the Tahltan people and others. We will continue to hold events to inspire and empower Tahltans to lead healthier and more active lives.

Another high point for our Nation took place in early December when we learned that our Nation would be receiving $500,000 from the First Nations Clean Energy Fund to invest in the Volcano Creek run-of-river project near Bob Quinn, 110 km south of Iskut. This was the maximum amount that could be awarded. The Tahltan Nation will be putting this money towards a $2 million dollar investment into the Volcano Creek renewable energy project, which in turn will produce an estimated $13 million in dividends for the Tahltan Nation over the next 60 years. This is the first time the Tahltan Nation will have equity in a major project within our territory.

In closing, I would like to honour those who have recently passed on and welcome all the new Tahltan babies into our Nation. I hope 2015 brings our Tahltan families much happiness, good health and prosperity.

Nedishchā,

Chad Norman Day, President
Tahltan Central Council

HEALTHY ACTIVE TAHLTANS

CARLENE DUCHARME

Tahltan member Carlene Ducharme is taking a holistic approach to wellness: body, mind and spirit.

Carlene's Tahltan name is Ehgah dan keh a dhi (Teacher Woman) and she is from the Ch'iyōne clan of the Simgaldtadta family. Carlene grew up in Iskut, but spent every summer during her childhood and teen years in Telegraph Creek with her late Grandma Nellie while her family harvested salmon.

Dedication

Carlene's favourite way to stay healthy and active is by running 3 – 5 km three times a week, cycling, weight lifting four or five times a week and kickboxing three times a week in addition to walking to and from classes at UBC. She has also adopted a clean eating lifestyle that is free from preservatives and processed food.

She told us, "I started my healthy lifestyle in December 2012 because I felt older than I was and even had heart palpitations. I started by lifting light weights and walking."

What motivates Carlene to continue this healthy lifestyle is the mental clarity and overall well-being that regular exercise and clean eating brings. She draws deep inspiration from her dad, Jerry Quock.

"He was a very active individual before he suffered a life-changing stroke and yet he continues to persevere regardless of his condition – he never gave up!"

When asked what advice she'd like to share with other Tahltans, Carlene said:

"I just want others to know that it's never too late to begin a healthy active lifestyle and that I am here for support if they need it. This year I have committed to taking my healthy lifestyle a step further by completely cutting alcohol from my life and choosing sobriety; it's never too late to reinvent yourself! Choose to be healthy: body, mind and spirit."

For further fitness tips and motivation, you can follow Carlene's Facebook page at Shapeshifter Fitness or on Instagram at tahltanladybug.

MICHELLE CAMILLE

Michelle is an inspiration to all Tahltans.

If you are planning to make some healthy changes to your life this year, draw some encouragement from Tahltan member Michelle Camille! Michelle grew up in Dease Lake at her grandparents' ranch along the Stikine River.

Active

Michelle has always been active and likes to work out every day — some of her favourite activities include snowshoeing, hunting, and trail-racing. At a recent trail race event, she placed fourth overall out of 747 women, which was good enough for first out of the 260 women in her age group. Her next trail race will be Revelstoke's TrailStoke race in the summer. Not just a fair-weather racer, Michelle will be taking part in her first snowshoe race in February and is also training for her very first 'ultra,' which is part of the North Face Dirty Feet Series 60 km trail race in Vernon.

Love for racing

Michelle has worked out regularly since her early 20s and has been snowshoeing since 2006. When asked where her love for trail-racing came from, she said: "It's from running after horses up and down mountains as a child."

Her children are her motivation and inspiration for staying active; "I just want to be a good example of an active lifestyle. In this day and age, children are too sedentary, gaming and stuck in front of a computer. My three-year-old works out with me every day, and loves it when I push her in her jogger when I'm training for my races. My older daughter picked up my passion for snowshoeing and my son is an avid snowboarder and hockey player who also dreams of becoming a professional downhill biker."

"Working out and being active is a kind of therapy for the soul," advises Michelle. "I took some things that were negative and focused that energy towards positive things. And if I can do it, so can anyone else!"

HEALTHY ACTIVE NATIVES (HANs)

Healthy Active Natives, or HANs for short, is a Facebook group started by Native American fitness leader Waylon Pee Pahona, to help inspire First Nations and Native Americans to lead more healthy active lives.

When Pee Pahona started the group he never expected it to become such an inspiration — the group now has nearly 52,000 members.

TCC President Chad Norman Day came across the group and was inspired to bring this positive movement to Tahltan territory. Touched by the initiative, Day eventually met with Pee Pahona and Tahltans were honoured with being the inaugural stop on the HANs "Unity Staff Tour."

The tour is an homage to Pee Pahona's brother who recently passed away. His brother had carved a staff before he died — which after its first stop in Tahltan territory is making its way around First Nations and Native American communities across North America, unifying everyone who has had a loved one pass away from health-related issues.

The Unity Staff Tour events in Tahltan this past October began in Iskut, where Day spoke to the kids about the importance of healthy active living before spending time with them on a 3km hike through the community. The next event in Telegraph Creek took place on a beautiful fall day. Tahltans young and old from Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek gathered at Thadu and hiked up the old village trails. Once at the top, the group shared stories and prayed together for the Tahltan people and all those that may need help improving their health.

The events were a big success and are an important part of ensuring the wellness of our people in mind, body and spirit. Thank you to all those who helped put the events together, including TCC, Iskut, and Telegraph Creek staff. And thank you Waylon Pee Pahona for being such an inspiration to Tahltans and other people around North America.

DEASE LAKE RAMS BEAT WHITEHORSE AND WATSON IN OLD TIMERS' TOURNAMENT

The Dease Lake Rams earned a well-deserved victory during last year's Watson Lake Old Timers' Tournament, which was held last November (2014). The Rams played against Whitehorse, and two other Watson Lake teams. The score in the winning game was 6-4.

Darren Loverin, who plays centre for the team, was proud of how the team came together that day. "The team played great, and the goaltending was stellar. It was a good team effort, considering that we were short players. We only had eight skaters and the other teams had fourteen, but the only close game was the last one. In all the other games, we blew them out of the water!"

Darren has been playing hockey for 39 years, since he was 11 years old. His passion for the sport has led him to play for many teams, including the Smithers Steelheads. Congratulations to Darren and the rest of the Dease Lake Rams – you make us proud!

CAREER PROFILE: Cookin' Up Something Good!

Cooking and eating brings families and communities together, and being a good cook can also lead to a rewarding career!

Being a professional cook can involve running your own restaurant or catering business, or working as a cook in a camp, restaurant or banquet hall. The Tahltan Nation is proud of our many wonderful cooks. Here are some examples of Tahltan members who are working their culinary magic.

Gaye Frocklage is a caterer in Dease Lake who grew up in the restaurant business. At the age of 11, Gaye began working at her parents' restaurant, Rancheria. Then she became an accountant, but, "In 1979, I opened the 40 Mile Flat Cafe, which we ran until 1999. Now, I am retired but I work as a caterer, mostly for the Tahltan Band Council, the School Board, or sometimes mining camps." Her advice to other Tahltans aspiring to be a cook is, "If you get into this business, and you take on a commitment, see it through. You have to maintain a high standard for your work."

Andrea Louie, who is also a caterer in Dease Lake, completed her three-year Professional Cook Apprenticeship program in 2003 through Okanagan College. To complete this program, Andrea spent four weeks in Kelowna for an intensive course, but the rest of the year was spent training under a chef at camp for Spatsizi Remote Services Corporation (SRSC), the catering arm of TNDC. She's currently working in town to be closer to her two children. What Andrea loves most about cooking is that "you are only limited by your imagination," and that "cooking is a science as well as an art."

Kena Louie is a caterer and the owner of "Kena's Kitchen" in Iskut. She is formally trained as an Early Childhood Educator, but discovered a passion for cooking years ago. Kena now provides catering services for community events and various camps, including fish camps, youth camps and industry camps. She is also Nutrition Coordinator for the Klappan Schools. Kena did not receive any formal training, but she often consults certified chefs for advice, noting that she's "always open to learning new stuff." She encourages other Tahltans who may wish to become cooks to "go for the culinary arts training [at NWCC], it's well worth it!"

Gail Quock has been catering in and around Telegraph Creek for the past couple of years. She hasn't received formal culinary training but has "always enjoyed cooking!" Her advice to Tahltans wishing to become a professional cook is, "If you enjoy it, go for it! If you have a passion, follow it!"

Donna McPherson is the owner of "Diamond 'C' Catering" in Dawson Creek, providing hot or cold catering and wait staff for personal events, as well as acting as sole caterer to the Bear Mountain Ski Hill facility. She is also available to cater celebration of life events. Visit her online at: http://www.diamondccatering.ca.

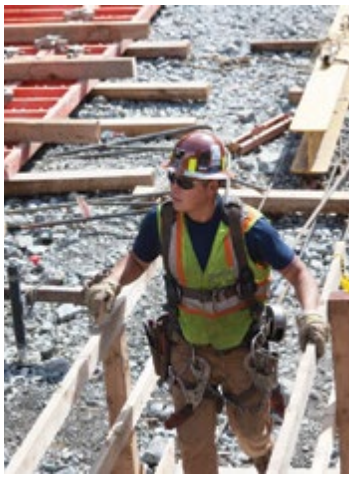
Amanda Dennis is a caterer based in Iskut. Amanda was a participant in the Professional Cook Apprenticeship Program through NWCC (see below), and completed all three levels between August 2010 and April 2012. Following her apprenticeship, Amanda got a job with SRSC. Amanda's apprenticeship at NWCC helped her gain the necessary skills for the camp job. She loves cooking for its sense of adventure: "every day you learn something new." Her advice to others is to "always keep an open mind ... take criticism as constructive." Amanda is looking forward to getting into wedding catering, with three weddings on the horizon for the summer of 2015.

So you want to be a cook?

The Northwest Community College offers a Professional Cook Apprenticeship at their Terrace Location.

The course allows students to develop classroom skills as well as practical, in-the-kitchen experience. The next course offering of Level 1 begins in August 2015 and runs until March 2016.

For complete course info, including prerequisites, course timetable and tuition fees, please visit: http://www.nwcc.bc.ca/program/professional-cook-apprenticeship-1-2.



TAHLTANWORKS: Turning Jobs into Careers

Have you heard about the Tahltan Nation's new employment and training plan?

This past May, the Tahltan Socio-Cultural Working Group brought together representatives from the Tahltan Nation, industry, northern-based colleges, and the provincial government. This unique group of stakeholders was tasked with overseeing the development and implementation of a comprehensive employment and training strategy called ***TahltanWorks***.

TahltanWorks is a plan designed to prepare Tahltans to take advantage of employment opportunities being created by industrial development taking place in our territory.

There are many Tahltans currently working in the exploration and construction phases of industry projects, including the Red Chris Mine, Northwest Transmission Line and AltaGas projects. *TahltanWorks* will enable Tahltans to maintain or take on employment with these projects as they shift into operation phases, offering career opportunities at all levels with better stability and pay.

SHIFT

At its heart, *TahltanWorks* is about making a shift from being jobs-focused to being career-focused. For many Tahltans, making that shift will require training, which is why, in addition to connecting Tahltans with career opportunities; the *TahltanWorks* plan will invest in our people by providing quality education and training.

Last month, as part of the *TahltanWorks* Plan we held a roundtable dialogue about meeting education and training needs in Tahltan territory. The dialogue resulted in commitments from post-secondary institutions (Northern Lights College, Northwest Community College, and the University of Northern British Columbia) to work together to deliver career-focused programs to the Tahltan community. Government, industry, and funding groups such as TRICORP also attended the dialogue and made commitments to support the plan.

TAHLTAN NEEDS

To make sure training aligns with the needs of Tahltans, the *TaltanWorks* team is currently conducting a survey of all TCC members. Research Assistants Trina Anne Gleason-Zubek and Ryan Franke have been reaching out to members by phone and in person to ask them important questions about their career backgrounds and goals for the future. With the support of Employment and Training Coordinator, Shana Dennis, this *TahltanWorks* team will be key to ensuring Tahltans have access to the resources they need to access long-term, well-paid careers. If you want to participate in the survey and help move this plan forward, please e-mail Shana at shana@tahltanworks.ca.

Stay tuned for more information about this exciting program, including the new *TahltanWorks* website, which will be a central hub for employment and training resources.

TALKING TAHLTAN: Update to our Language Programs

GOVERNANCE

Tahltan Nation featured in 2nd edition of FPCC Language Report: The Tahltan Nation was featured as a case study in the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) *Report on the Status of BC First Nations Languages 2014, Second Edition*. The report commends the Tahltan Nation for their collaborative approach to language planning and their implementation of effective language revitalization initiatives, such as the formation of Dah Dzahge Nodesidē/ Tahltan Language and Culture Council, the opening of language nests, and the documentation of language from fluent speakers.

PROGRAMS

New language nest in Dease Lake: In December 2014, a second language nest was opened in Dease Lake – the first nest opened in Iskut in May 2014. Language nests are home-like settings where children from infancy to age four are immersed in their ancestral language. With only Tahltan spoken in the nest, children quickly pick up the language and staff members are also able to increase their language proficiency. The first language nest in BC was opened at the Chief Atahm Secwepemc language immersion school near Chase, BC, and it has been used as a model for the Tahltan language nests. There are plans to open a third nest in Telegraph Creek in 2015.

Tahltan Language Revitalization Program: The Tahltan Nation, in partnership with the University of Victoria, has received funding for the next three years to develop and deliver a two-year Diploma in Language Revitalization. The program will start in September 2015. This will be a three to five year program held in Dease Lake, with a schedule that allows for travel from different communities. The first two years are geared to increase language proficiency among course participants, and will feature language instruction from fluent speakers. The final three years, with a focus on education, lead to a Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization. Upon the successful completion of their degree, participants receive a Professional Teaching Certificate at the elementary school level.

The program is designed for a cohort of 18 students. Interested individuals should contact Aliki Marinakis (iedlang@uvic.ca) or Judy Thompson (judithcthompson@gmail.com) immediately.

DOCUMENTATION

Tahltan language apps: The Tahltan Language Revitalization Team is working with Simon Fraser University (SFU) to develop apps for Tahltan language learners. This development of Tahltan language learning tools is part of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant-funded initiative, which features a partnership between the SFU First Nations Language Centre and 22 First Nations community groups across BC and the Yukon who are dedicated to language revitalization.

The first app will be based on the "Basic Tahltan Conversation Lessons" and audio recordings from 1991. It will be made available as an online course and as a downloadable app for mobile devices, with assessment exercises developed for learners. More Tahltan language learning lessons will be developed over the next few months.

NETWORKING

Hawaii Conference: Judy Thompson (Tahltan Language and Culture Lead), Angela Dennis (fluent Tahltan speaker and Tahltan language teacher), and Odelia Dennis (Language Nest Coordinator) will be traveling to Hawaii at the end of February to present a paper at the International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation. The paper is called "Bringing it Together: Implementing community-based Tahltan language Revitalization Research." Michael Bourquin will also be attending, as his film *Dah Tsiye Kehke (Our Grandfather's Footprints)* has been accepted for screening at the conference. It is a documentary about Tahltan Elder Loveman Nole's relationship with his grandchildren and the importance of retaining Traditional Indigenous Knowledge. It has been broadcast nationally on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, the 4th largest network in Canada. The film has been entirely versioned into the Tahltan language (English subtitles) with the help of Reginald and Ryan Dennis, and translated by Angela Dennis.

GERALD EDZERZA: Cultural Steward

Gerald Edzerza, otherwise known as the 'Tahltan Fiddler,' was born on January 12, 1930 in Telegraph Creek. At fourteen years old, Gerald picked up a friend's fiddle and started teaching himself to play. Three years later, in 1947, he bought a fiddle for $5 from a friend. This fiddle accompanied him to the site where he worked on a survey crew that summer, but it didn't survive the journey home.

"When I was coming out of the bush on a pack-horse it got crushed!" laughs Gerald.

That Christmas his mother bought him a fiddle, which he still owns today. But after he turned 19, Gerald's interests diverged and he didn't play the fiddle for a number of years. He got married in Lower Post in 1952 and moved to Whitehorse in 1966 to work on a highway project. For nearly three decades, he didn't play the fiddle at all.

In 1980, Gerald picked up his fiddle with a renewed sense of enthusiasm, and started getting quite good! His musical career has included the release of two CDs and performing at numerous festivals and events. These have included closing ceremonies of the Canada Winter Games in 2007, the Athabasca Fiddle Festival, Fiddle Jamboree in Grand Prairie and the Fairbanks Fiddle Festival. He has also toured his music to Inuvik (NT), Old Crow (YT) and Carmacks (YT).

Growing up

Gerald's parents were both from Telegraph Creek. He did not grow up in a particularly musical family, other than one of his brothers, who was a singer. He grew up speaking some Tahltan and understanding a lot.

> **"I'm not an expert," Gerald explains, "but I still speak" "quite a bit of it."**

His father moved the family out of Telegraph Creek in 1943, but he has one brother and sister-in-law who currently live there. Gerald and his wife moved from Whitehorse to Watson Lake in the 1970s to be nearer to her family. Gerald retired there, and bought a trap line; you can find him trapping when he is not playing his fiddle.

On the road

Gerald's music has sent him on the road many times – he played at the Athabasca Fiddle Festival in Fairbanks (AK) for eight years. In 2002, he journeyed up to Alaska to play at a big pipeline celebration, organized by his friend and fellow musician, Singin' Sam.

"He paid me to drive up and play with his band. I'd never played with them before ... but after 20 minutes, it was like we'd been playing together our whole lives! They were a great old country band, with a great steel guitar player. I only played with them once, then I drove back down later that day."

Gerald loves playing music with a group. At the Fairbanks Fiddle Festival, he was one of 30 fiddlers. Each were allowed to play two songs, but he convinced the organizers to let him play a third. The largest event he's ever played was for over 6,000 people with eight other fiddlers at the 2007 Canada Winter Games.

Proud

He is proud to play his music whenever he is asked. He recently played several fiddle tunes at a funeral, and may be sharing his music at the funeral of Yukon legend Alex Van Bibber, who passed away on November 26 at the age of 98.

"I gave one my CDs to a friend from the Northwest Territories who traveled a lot," says Gerald. "The friend took my CD to Ontario and played it for his friend there. His friend wanted the CD and offered to trade him for it. So, he gave my friend a beautiful fiddle and case in exchange for a copy of my CD!"

Last July, Gerald was honoured with the 2014 Adaka Award for Cultural Steward of Traditional Knowledge & Art – Performing Art category. Gerald hopes to release a third CD sometime soon, as there are many beautiful songs he still wants to share.

Gerald will play next in February, at a dance in Dawson City.

ELDER PROFILE

MADGE VANCE

Tahltan elder Madge (Vance) Thompson was born on September 22, 1928 in Telegraph Creek, BC. Her maiden name is Vance, and she is a part of the Quock family. Her Tahltan name is "ets-uts-a," which means "little brown bird," something she fondly remembers being called as a child.

Madge comes from a large family, where she was one of 10 siblings; five girls and five boys. Her family has been a large part of her "exciting life." Madge has particularly fond memories of her many long walks with her grandmother, Lucy Quock. Each day after school, Madge walked with her grandmother up the Stikine River. They would sit on a big rock, and her grandmother would tell her about all their family history, culture, food and medicines. On the way back, Madge would pick up beautiful rocks along the river, while her grandma patiently waited, admiring her selections.

Each day after school, Madge walked with her grandmother up the Stikine River.

Grandmother

Madge also recalls braiding her grandmother's long, white hair and then tying a ribbon at the bottom of the braid. "As soon as I left, she'd take the ribbon off and use a shoelace instead," says Madge, because shoelaces held better. Her grandmother taught her a lot about 'Indian Medicine,' and was skilled in treating patients even though she was not formally trained. The wisdom imparted by her grandmother also extended to teaching Madge and her siblings how to tell direction by the position of the sun, how to fish, and how to set up a tent to ensure that no smoke from the cooking fire could get inside. Madge thinks of her often, especially around the holidays, as "she used to tell us that Christmas was the best time to make amends with friends."

Food as medicine

When asked what knowledge she would like to share, Madge chose wisdom that came from her grandmother Lucy about food as medicine.

"Everything we ate [had medicinal properties]. Dandelion leaves are very cleansing, and tasty served steamed. Caribou leaves and balsam bark boiled together are a cure for cancer. You have to boil them together, and drink them as a tea, morning and night — it cleanses your body. Another medicinal plant is stinging nettle, which is loaded with iron. We used to pick them with thick leather gloves and bring them home to make into tea. In spring, dandelion and nettle would come up and steelhead and sockeye would come, and that was our dinner, with rice. I call that the Telegraph Creek dinner! In my house though, we also ate a lot of potatoes, since my father was an Irishman."

Fond memories

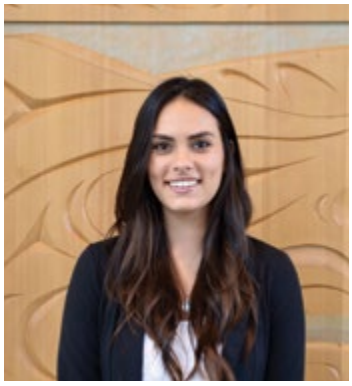
As Madge reminisces, she laughs about how she and her brother Ted hated going so far up the lake to find good dandelion leaves – and how they never told their mother about the time they saw a coyote running through, peeing on the leaves!

She and all her nine siblings were quite close. Today, she has two remaining siblings: her brother Frederick Vance, who lives in Smithers, and her sister Cora Mankowski, who lives near Langley. Madge currently lives in Keremeos, BC, and also used to live in Vancouver, where she has many friends.

INSPIRING YOUNG TAHLTANS

KIANA BALL

Kiana Cheyenne Fraser Ball, 18, grew up in Dease Lake and is a member of the Wolf Clan and a member of the Etzenlee family.



Growing up in Tahltan territory, Kiana was able to learn about Tahltan culture being around others who shared similar beliefs and cultural views. At 13, Kiana's family moved from Dease Lake to Smithers. While there are many Tahltans in Smithers, Kiana still missed 'home.'

Currently, she is in her second year of post-secondary education at the University of Victoria where she is pursuing a degree in Sociology with a cluster in Crime, Law, and Social Control. She chose this major for not only personal interests but also because it opens up many other doors for her academic future — including the fact that it is a great preparatory degree to pursue a career in law. Kiana tells us she has always dreamed of becoming a lawyer — and that after her undergraduate degree she will move on to law school in British Columbia or Saskatchewan.

On her journey to become the strong young woman she is today, Kiana has taken inspiration from her parents and grandmother. She credits her parents for their support and hard work to raise, educate, and push her to pursue post-secondary education. She also honours her grandmother, who she tells us, is an amazing woman who is always there to offer love and support when she needs it. Her grandmother has been successful in her life and one day Kiana hopes to be like her. While she keeps her family close to her heart for love and inspiration, Kiana lives her life by the saying: "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

> **"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."**

Keep up the great work Kiana, you're an inspiration for young Tahltans everywhere!

DELANEY NOLE

Delaney Nole, 19, grew up in Dease Lake, and is a member of the Crow Clan. He attended and graduated from the Dease Lake Elementary Secondary School.

After high school, Delaney began his Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Apprenticeship through the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation (TNDC) and has been an apprentice for the past year. He finds the work interesting and rewarding. He recently received a Galore Creek Mining Corporation bursary, and will be attending Level I and II of his Heavy Duty Equipment Apprenticeship certification at Okanagan College this summer. Working in a trade such as an equipment technician or mechanic can open up many doors for future employment.

This particular position includes the maintenance, manufacture, overhaul and repairs for many industrial machines, including graders, loaders, tractors, trucks, and forklifts, which are used in construction, logging, sawmill, mining and manufacturing. Aside from offering a wide variety of career possibilities, this career path is also well-compensated and interesting work.

> **Working in a trade such as an equipment technician or mechanic can open up many doors for future employment.**

Keep up the great work, Delaney!

KLAPPAN REPORT RELEASED

Your input is needed on an important report.

In late December, the Tahltan Central Council (TCC) and Province of British Columbia jointly released a draft Klappan Strategic Initiative Technical Report – and now is your opportunity to make sure your opinions are heard.

The report was presented to the Tahltan communities last fall by the Klappan Strategic Initiative (KSI), which is partnership between the province and TCC designed to bring a collaborative approach to land and resource issues in the area. The draft report is now released to the public and gives all Tahltans more opportunity to review the report and provide your feedback. The report explains both Tahltan and Provincial perspectives of the Klappan. It includes traditional cultural, environmental and economic values and concerns. To comment visit: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/main/ksi.

Klappan perspectives

The report is not a land-use recommendation. It is a summary of both Tahltan and Provincial perspectives of the Klappan and will help facilitate an informed government-to-government discussion. By sitting down with the Provincial Government to outline our values and priorities, we are helping to ensure a long-term plan and protection for the Klappan.

Shaping development

In the report, the province recognizes that Tahltans are stewards of the Klappan. This will help the Tahltan Nation to ensure any proposed development in and around the Klappan will happen on Tahltan terms, and will be informed by values documented in the report.

The Klappan is extremely important for the Tahltan community. It is our water, it is our food, it is our land. The report empowers our community by putting our values and concerns into a document co-written and signed by the Province.

> **The Klappan is extremely important for the Tahltan community. It is our water, it is our food, it is our land.**

TAHLTAN NATION RECEIVES $500,000 FROM FIRST NATIONS CLEAN ENERGY FUND

In early December, Tahltan Central Council learned that our Nation would be receiving $500,000 from a provincial fund called the "First Nations Clean Energy Fund" after submitting an application earlier in the year. The grant is the maximum amount that can be awarded. The funding will be used to help our Nation invest a total of $2 million in the Volcano Creek run-of-river hydroelectric project.

In addition to receiving money through revenue-sharing agreements, which is how we are compensated for most developments in our territory, we will be taking a large financial stake in Volcano Creek. As investors, our role as decision-makers, not stakeholders, is emphasized. Profit from the project belongs directly to the Nation, instead of first belonging to the company and then being given to us. Investing in Volcano Creek does not compromise any of the revenue-sharing agreements already in place.

Volcano Creek is expected to run for 60 years and provide a 7.95% return every year, meaning that an initial $2 million would grow to around about $13.2 million in 60 years. *continued >*

> **Profit from the project belongs directly to the Nation, instead of first belonging to the company and then being given to us.**

This is in addition to existing revenue-sharing agreements in place. The project is very well managed, beginning commercial operations in late December, a full two years ahead of the original schedule.

This news is the latest result of respectful and fruitful ongoing relationships with the province and AltaGas's run-of-river hydroelectric projects. Already there is an agreement in place to share the revenue that comes from the projects, and there are also impact benefit agreements (IBAs) between AltaGas, TCC, Tahltan Band Council and Iskut Band Council.

As well as allowing for investment, the IBAs provide jobs and training opportunities for our people while also making sure Tahltan people are involved in environmental protection and monitoring. This includes an Environmental Protection Committee that is made up of both Tahltan and AltaGas representatives.

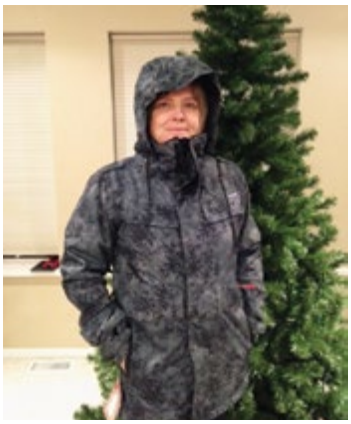
Volcano Creek is a run-of-river hydroelectric project that delivers power to the Northwest Transmission Line. It is one of three AltaGas projects in Tahltan territory. The others are the Forrest Kerr and McLymont Creek hydroelectric projects.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH RED CHRIS?

The Red Chris Mine has never been far from people's minds in recent months. From the completion of the power line to protests following the tailings disaster at Mount Polley, there has been a lot going on.

Your thoughts:

In October, the Tahltan Central Council (TCC) asked members for their thoughts and questions on Red Chris. The results have been used to guide conversation and negotiations. A huge thank you to more than 350 members for taking the time to send us their thoughts online and on paper. Those who completed the survey were entered into a prize draw. Congratulations to Bill McPhee, who won a pair of snowshoes, and to Colleen Parker, who won a nice new winter coat!



In the survey, many members said that they wanted more information available online. A summary of the results, as well as answers to many of the questions asked, can be found on a new Tahltan website – www.hodudehi.ca. Meduh to the Tahltan language experts who helped to choose the name Hodudēhi, which translates roughly as 'let's talk.'

Third-Party Review

An independent Third-Party Review of the Red Chris Mine was also completed in the fall, and can be found on the www.hododehi.ca website too. This review ensured that what is already in place at the mine meets regulatory requirements and made more than 20 recommendations to bring it up to world-class standards. Mine owners Imperial Metals are legally required to implement those recommendations, and more can be found on the work on pages 13 and 14.

TCC negotiations team has been working hard to crate a draft co-management agreement with the mine.

Although support for the mine is split (55% are in favour), the survey found that more than 75% of members do support an agreement with the mine owners if the mine opens (it is at the final stages of permitting).

Through the late fall and into the winter, the TCC negotiations team has been working hard to crate a draft co-management agreement with the mine. This aims to make sure our Nation has more control over the mine as well as the capacity to exercise that control.

HODUDĒHI—LET'S TALK

The launch of the new community engagement website at **www.hodudehi.ca** is an exciting step. It is a Tahltan Nation website designed to give our community the latest information on developments or proposed projects in our territory. Hodudēhi means "let's talk" in Tahltan.

With Tahltans living all over the world, this site opens up a space for Tahltan voices to gather. It is a safe, respectful place where voices are heard about issues that matter to members. If there is a concern, let's talk about it and address it together. Armed with good information, teachings and strong connections to each other, we are better equipped to make important decisions that benefit the Tahltan Nation now and for future generations.

What next?

The Red Chris Mine is almost ready to open. Once it receives final permits in early 2015 it will begin to operate, so making sure any agreement has the support of the Nation is a priority for TCC leadership.

In February 2015, there will be a series of community meetings to follow up on the meetings from last fall (see chart below for details). This is an opportunity for members to get an update on what has been happening since meetings in the fall of 2014, and get more details on what an agreement with the Mine is going to look like. Imperial Metals representatives will also be available to answer questions at the meetings. As with the last round of meetings, we plan to broadcast select meetings securely online so that you can get involved wherever you live.

Date/Day of the week	Location
February 17 (Tuesday)	Dease Lake
February 18 (Wednesday)	Telegraph Creek
February 19 (Thursday)	Iskut
February 20 (Friday)	Watson Lake
February 21 (Saturday morning)	Whitehorse
February 21 (Saturday afternoon)	Terrace
February 22 (Sunday morning)	Smithers (Livecast)
February 22 (Sunday afternoon)	Prince George
February 23 (Monday)	Fort St. John
February 24 (Tuesday)	Vancouver (Livecast)
TBD	Edmonton

Vote

In late March or early April of 2015, the TCC will hold a ratification vote and the Tahltan Nation will decide if it supports a co-management agreement with Imperial Metals.

TCC will continue to work with Imperial to implement all of the changes and recommendations so that the tailings pond design and water quality meet world-class standards. It will also continue to keep you informed about the Red Chris Mine, while gathering your thoughts and opinions and answering any new questions. Please continue to let us know your thoughts, opinions and questions on Facebook, through **www.hodudehi.ca**, by emailing **askus@tahltan.org**, or calling **1-800-Tahltan**

TAHLTAN HERITAGE RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TEAM(THREAT): UPDATE

THIRD-PARTY REVIEW

On August 4th, 2014, a failed tailings dam at the Mt Polley Mine, owned and operated by Imperial Metals, released 25 Mm^3 of tailings and effluent to Polley Lake and Quesnel Lake. The Mt Polley Mine dam failure, near Likely, BC, is a significant environmental incident in the province of BC and in Canada and has raised concerns regarding mining and environmental safety for future generations. Since the Mt Polley dam failure, Tahltan people have also made it known that Tahltan lands including water, wildlife, fish and vegetation are significant to Tahltan culture and the Tahltan way of life. The Red Chris Mine project, also owned by Imperial Metals, is located in Tahltan territory and Tahltan people have held several demonstrations near the Mine site to ensure their concerns regarding the project and their need to protect Tahltan lands were heard. The first demonstration on August 8th (four days after the Mt Polley tailings dam failure) resulted in the company agreeing to address a number of concerns raised by Tahltan people including an independent third-party review of the tailings facility.

In late August, the Tahltan Central Council contracted Klohn Crippen Berger (KCB) to undertake a third-party review of the Red Chris Mine tailings facility. The review included an assessment of all Red Chris Mine Tailings Facilities and referenced World-Class Standards, geotechnical and geo-hazard review across the project footprint, operational water management and environmental protection management plans and insurance, bonding and contingency planning. The Tahltan Central Council and the Tahltan Heritage Resources Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT) were involved in the review and managed and coordinated meetings with the community and Tahltan leadership. In October 2014, KCB completed its review and presented it to Tahltan leadership and Imperial Metals. In the review, KCB made 22 recommendations which included recommendations for tailings operations, water management, investigation into local geohazards, improved ground water monitoring and water balance for the tailings operations and area, improved management systems (e.g. Mining Association of Canada Management System) and an independent tailings review board. The Tahltan Central Council has presented the findings from the independent review to Tahltan members through community meetings in October and has made the final report available to its membership here: http://hodudehi.ca/third-party-review.

Imperial Metals has agreed to implement all 22 recommendations and the Tahltan and Imperial have been working towards a plan for implementation.

MINING FORUM

The TCC and THREAT held the first annual Tahltan Mining Forum in Dease Lake, BC on November 14 – 15th, 2014. The forum provided Tahltan participants an opportunity to ask questions and have dialogue with representatives from mining companies, government and local Tahltan businesses. Government representatives provided information about permits related to mining and exploration activity in Tahltan territory. Mining Companies provided maps and information related to their projects. Participating companies included: Teck, Galore Creek Mining Corporation, Seabridge Gold Inc, Colorado Resources, Tahltan Nation Development Corporation, Atrum Coal, Imperial Metals, Pretivm Resources, and the Ministry of Energy and Mines. More than 40 Tahltan people attended the forum over the two-day period and learned about mining and exploration projects in Tahltan territory. All participants were asked to fill out a survey and the results indicated that people thought the event was worthwhile and a good opportunity to learn about mining. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped with the event, and Stikine Minor Hockey for the concession. We are currently planning to hold another mining forum in the spring.

LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – DECISION MAKING

In 2013, the Tahltan signed a Shared Decision-Making "SDM" Agreement with the Province of BC that would provide more direction to both Tahltan and the Province regarding referrals for land resource activities in Tahltan territory.

Tahltan must be part of decision making concerning land and resources as Tahltan people continue to exercise their inherent right to self-government, including Tahltan land stewardship that protects Tahltan lands for future generations.

The Tahltan Central Council and the Tahltan Heritage Resources Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT) have been working on implementing this agreement, which has specific processes for engagement depending on the type of referral and resource activity. Advanced projects, such as Mines or transmission lines, were given the highest level of engagement. This included a specific working group and terms of reference that outlined the consultation requirements for the application. While the SDM process provided guidance in engagement between the Province and Tahltan for resource activities in Tahltan territory, Tahltan did not find the process to be "shared" decision-making and are currently working towards a change in the SDM. In 2014, after the Tsilhqot'in land title case which further defined Aboriginal title and rights and the dam breach at the Mt Polley Mine, the Tahltan Central Council negotiated a memorandum of understanding with the Province to change the SDM agreement. The Tahltan Central Council is moving away from the current process of administration, which allows for consultation and provincial decisions, to one of "consent-based" decision making where Tahltan are making decisions on land activities in Tahltan territory. Tahltan must be part of decision making concerning land and resources, as Tahltan people continue to exercise their inherent right to self-government including Tahltan land stewardship that protects Tahltan lands for future generations. Part of this change will also include capacity development and new staff in the communities, tools such as digital mapping and a lands database, and land-use planning that will support our Tahltan governance. The Tahltan Central Council is currently working on a new model for consent-based decision making which will change the current SDM. These changes are in discussion and will be in place in 2015.

Photo Credit: Dwayne Day

TAHLTAN ARTIST SHINES AT APCMA

Congratulations to Tahltan artist Jasmine Netsena, who was honoured last September at the Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards (APCMA) for Best Folk/Acoustic CD.

Jasmine started writing music 10 years ago, and continues to channel her creativity into singing and songwriting. As well as producing this award-winning album, Jasmine recently welcomed a new baby girl, Sadeya.

Jasmine recently welcomed a new baby girl, Sadeya.

Jasmine will be taking a break from touring while she enjoys her latest addition, but is planning to start work on her new album next month while participating in the annual 'February Album Writing Month Challenge.' The challenge, which entails writing a new song every second day for the month of February, has proven successful for Jasmine in the past – two years ago, she participated in the challenge, and in doing so she wrote two of the songs on her award-winning debut album, *Take You With Me*.

She says, "It is a good way to stimulate your creativity, because songs don't always just come to you."

Jasmine, who is the daughter of Tahltan Band Council Chief Terri Brown, currently resides in Fort Nelson, BC. We look forward to hearing more about Jasmine in the future.

To hear songs for her current album, or to learn more about Jasmine, visit: http://aboriginalpeopleschoice.com/artists/Jasmine-netsena.

WARM UP THIS WINTER WITH TRADITIONAL TAHLTAN TEAS

Plants such as rose hips, caribou leaf and stinging nettle can be found around Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek. Many plants have healing, medicinal properties. Their benefits can be enhanced by combining steeping several herbs together to make your winter cup of tea.

This winter, consider combining **stinging nettle**, **devil's club** and **mint** for an immune-boosting tea. Or, for your daily dose of vitamin C, try blending **rose hips**, **mint** and **spruce tips** together (note: spruce tips are not to be used during pregnancy).

Did you know?

- Stinging nettle is a Mineral-rich plant that is anti-inflammatory and immune boosting.
- Caribou weed is used to treat fever, infection, tumors, join pain, and congestion, among other conditions.
- Wild mint has numbing and anti-spasmodic properties, and can help relieve digestive upset and gas.

Thank you to Leigh Joseph, who provided the information about these teas.

CONGRATULATIONS: Births

Ginger Young and **Kody Camilli** are pleased to share:

Kutter Robert Levi Camilli-Young

Born on **December 12, 2014**

Weight: **7lbs, 1oz**

Kari Baxter and **Brandon Pierre** are pleased to share:

Kendra Ann Baxter-Pierre

Born on **January 4th, 2014**

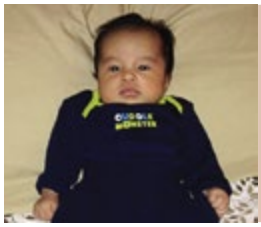
Weight: **8 lbs**

Mia Giuliana and **Dorian Johnson** are pleased to share:

Alesana Maraya Johnson

Born on **December 8, 2014**

Weight: **7lbs, 11oz**



Savanna Carlick and **Merle Reid** are pleased to share:

Ethan Phillip Zander Reid

Born on **November 11, 2014**

Weight: **6lbs 11oz**

Crystal Carlick and the late **Johnathon Stockman** are pleased to share:

ArtistaRose Joni Heaven Lee Stockman

Born on **December 1, 2014**

Weight: **7lbs, 3 oz**

Carol Roberts and **John Scott** are pleased to share:

Lily-Mae Mary Scott

Born on **November 28, 2014**

Weight: **8lbs 5oz**

Koomishma and **Derek Pyke** are pleased to share:

Dayton Norman James Pyke

Born on **October 16, 2014**

Weight: **7lbs, 14oz**

RJ & **Kristen Seymour** are pleased to share:

Jackson Philip Seymour

Born on **December 2, 2014**

Weight: **6lbs**

Alistair Gordon Seymour

Born on **December 2, 2014**

Weight: **5lbs 2oz**

Roslyn Reid and **Samuel Johnny** are pleased to share:

Kaiser James Johnny

Born on **November 23, 2014**

Weight: **8 lbs, 4 oz**

Treena Quock and **Shawn Ducharme** are pleased to share:

Bryce O.J. Ducharme

Born on **December 5, 2014**

Weight: **8lbs 14oz**

Jessica and **Justin Creyke** are pleased to share:

Julianna Amber Danielle Creyke

Born on **November 26, 2014**

Weight: **7lbs, 7oz**

Jasmine Netsena and **Shawn Bertrand** are pleased to share:

Sadeya Theresa Corrine Netsena

Born on **December 8, 2014**

Weight: **8lbs 4oz**

Cecilia and **Rick Noel** are pleased to share:

Mya Jennifer Judy Noel

Born on **November 11, 2014**

Megan Dennis and **Brad Jubb** are pleased to share:

Kelton Richard Joseph

Born on **January 20, 2015**

Weight: **8lbs 7oz**

IN LOVING MEMORY:

Jackie Carlick Sr.

Jackie Carlick was a pillar in the Iskut community for all of the years he lived there. When the community of Iskut first got television installed, Jackie was right there with the guys who were installing the TVs and cable system. Since that time, he was Iskut's cable guy, taking care of the Iskut Band's cable system for many years. And when the Band gave up the cable system, and community members started installing satellite systems, Jackie was the one who helped everyone set up their satellite dish, from the installation to the programming. Whenever anyone had a problem with their satellite system they would call on Jackie to fix it.

Jackie also served as Iskut's Fire Chief for many years and kept the fire department functioning during that time. He also served on Council for a few years and did a great job as a leader. One of Jackie's most memorable roles in the community, was as Coach for many of the hockey teams. He volunteered his time as a coach for pee wee and bantam players as well as men's, women's, and the old timers' teams. Jackie devoted countless hours to coaching the hockey teams and he made an ice rink in his back yard when there wasn't a rink for the kids to practise on.

He is fondly remembered by many, including the youth he coached who are now adults. Jackie was a good friend to everyone in the community; if anyone needed help he was always there willing to lend a helping hand.

Jackie will always be remembered by the Iskut Community for his leadership, community spirit and his willingness to go the extra mile for his fellow community members. Jackie will never be forgotten by the Iskut community. His Legacy lives on in every hockey player that he devoted his time to coach. We know that his spirit and his love of hockey is within our new arena and with our teams during the hockey games as hockey was his passion.

Robert Dennis, Sr.

Robert Dennis, Sr. was born on January 1st, 1921 in Telegraph Creek, British Columbia, next to the Stikine River. He was a member of the Tahtan Band of British Columbia. Robert passed away on September 19th, 2014, and is now with his wife, Janet, who passed away five years ago. He is survived by his sons Marlin and his partner Val, Bobby and his wife Lorayne, and his daughter Lyn. Robert is also survived by his grandchildren: Bobby III, Brandon, Kody, Kayla, Jason and Austin; and his great grandchildren: Laraya, Mai'ani, Rylee, and Honi.

Robert worked as a longshoreman, in construction, and as a commercial fisherman throughout Alaska, Washington and California. He enjoyed boxing, rodeos, going to the tribal casinos, camping, hunting, fur trapping and working on cars.

Marlin enjoyed taking "Pop" to the casino, and said "I am going to miss him very much." Bobby said, "I really liked that Dad took us to Cultus lake to watch the canoe races and go camping. I love you Dad, thank you for teaching me. Give Mom a hug for me. I will love you and will miss you always." Lyn said, "Dad was a very special man. He called me 'Honey-Girl' and always taught me that I could do and be anything I wanted. He was very supportive and showed so much love."

Robert taught people the importance of respect and to treat others the way we want to be treated — a legacy that is inspiring for all Tahltans.

Leonard Sutherland Jr.

Leonard Sutherland Jr was born on December 2, 1960 and passed away November 26th, 2014.

He was the beloved son of Ginger Henyu and Leonard Sutherland. Leonard had a passion for writing and was always in a wonderful mood and loved to joke around. He left behind a son: Leonard Jr. Sutherland, and two grandchildren.

Patrick Carlick Sr.

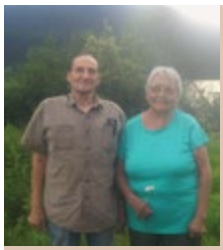
Patrick Carlick Sr./*Hamdā* was born on December 23, 1941 to Winnie Carlick and Bill Jack. Patrick never got to know his father as he passed away when Patrick was six months old. His mother passed away when he was 12 years old, and he and his sisters, Margie and Molly, went to live with his maternal grandparents Loudecker and Bessie. They also lived with his Aunty Fanny at one time. He learned his language, oral history, traditions, and beliefs from his grandparents. He recalled the first few hunting trips with his grandfather, who spoke only Tahltan. At first it was hard to communicate, but Patrick learned quickly. His grandfather's teachings shaped Patrick's life as the 'Tahltan encyclopedia.' Patrick was thankful for these teachings, and he shared them with his children and anyone who was interested. Patrick was usually sought out to pray, feed the fire or speak at public gatherings. He was a very spiritual man and helped many people who were having problems. In his last days he said, "I'm going to walk out of here (the hospital) and continue to do the Creator's work." Even through his passing, he continues to teach and guide people.

On December 1, 1967, Patrick married Edith Quock. They raised their children in a traditional home where they passed on the traditions, beliefs and lifestyle of their Ancestors. In Patrick's words, "We took our children out on the land because this was the best way to instill in them the importance of who they are and where they come from."

Hamdā taught language classes at the Tahltan School in Telegraph Creek from 1980 to 1993. He attended language workshops in the Yukon with other language teachers, and in 1985 received his language-teaching certificate from the Yukon College. He worked on the development of language materials and digital recordings with different organizations and post-secondary institutions. This was for research purposes and the preservation and revitalization of the Tahltan language. Patrick worked with Dr. Pat Shaw from the University of British Columbia and Dr. John Alderete from Simon Fraser University. He and other Tahltan fluent speakers worked with linguist Colin Carter and developed the *Tahltan Children's Illustrated Dictionary* and the *Basic Tahltan Conversation Lessons*, with his voice being used for the Telegraph Creek dialect recording.

Hamdā was passionate about the revitalization of our language right up until the end of his life. In October 2013, he went through the Mentor-Apprentice Training with Edith and his daughter, Pauline Hawkins. The Mentor-Apprentice Program is a method that provides a way for individuals to learn their Indigenous language from a fluent speaker through everyday life and cultural activities. The learner and fluent speaker work together 10-20 hours per week for several years. Patrick and Pauline were successful in their application to First Peoples' Cultural Council to carry out this work, and they were just getting started when Patrick became ill. Hamdā/Patrick Carlick Sr. passed away on August 27, 2014. He is survived by his wife Edith, nine children, 33 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and one great, great-grandchild.

Although Patrick has passed on, his wisdom, Tahltan knowledge, and spiritual teachings continues to live on in his people whom he loved dearly. With his passing Patrick would want his people to be inspired to continue learning their traditional ways and who they are as Tahltan people.



Brian Lindstrom Sr.

FROM TBC – We, the past and the present Chief and Council, are expressing our appreciation to Brian Lindstrom Sr. for the service he has provided to the Tahltan Band as a maintenance person all those years. Brian, you will be deeply missed and we can't thank you enough.

FROM THSSA – Brian was everything to our THSSA staff here in Dease Lake. He was always available to help whenever needed, no matter how small or large the projects were.

He was a shoulder to lean on when we needed words of wisdom. Brian and his brother Alvin did an amazing last project together on our house in Dease Lake; it is really a showcase home with their own personal touches. We learnt very quickly how irreplaceable Brian is. He will be forever missed and in our hearts.

We do our best to honour Tahltans who have passed away. If you have a loved one who has recently passed that you would like mentioned in the newsletter, please contact: info@tahltan.org. We will be honouring Arthur Nole in the next edition.

If you have any stories that you would like to share for the next newsletter, please email them to info@tahltan.org, or bring in a hard copy to your local band office

TAHLTAN
Central Council

If you are not yet a fan of TCC's Facebook Page, please head to **www.facebook.com/tahltancentralcouncil** to stay up-to-date with nation news and events, job postings, member birthdays, anniversaries, and other accomplishments.