TAHLTAN
Central Government

"IBEHI" means Summer in the Tahltan Language

TAHLTAN SUMMER | IBEHI 2016

President's Message

Our executive team is humbled and honoured by the support we received at the recent Tahltan Central Government Annual General Assembly (AGA) and we want to thank everyone for your confidence in electing us to continue leading the TCG for another three years.

As President of the TCG, I take my responsibilities very seriously and will continue to do my best to protect the collective interests of our current and future generations of Tahltan people. The Tahltan Nation is stronger when we work together and our team remains determined to move forward on a mandate which will help our Nation grow and prosper while protecting our land, our wildlife and our culture.

The TCG's goals over the next three years are to continue to build upon the good work which has already been started. We will improve on communication and information sharing from leadership and seek additional opportunities for more participation and involvement in decision making. We are committed to ensuring that through our Youth and Elder Councils we capture their distinct needs and knowledge. We have also enhanced the support we provide to our Family Representatives and they will begin holding multiple meetings with their respective family members each year to improve communication, information-sharing and accountability.

Other major initiatives currently underway include the creation of a Tahltan Nation Constitution, a Tahltan Nation Land Use Plan and we aim to continue working towards robust co-management regimes with the Province of British Columbia around permitting on Tahltan Lands, Parks, Wildlife and Fish. At the same time, we will continue to develop our local economy by encouraging responsible resource development. Seeking opportunities to diversify our economy through ecotourism, clean technology and professional services is also ongoing.

Lastly, I promise healthy, local leadership. As a leader I will continue to be an active participant in the local community and provide professional direction and support to our Board of Directors and the administration staff both in the Dease Lake and Terrace offices. I also look forward to

becoming more involved with our local youth by increasing the number of Healthy Active Tahltans (HATs) events we hold each year and by continuing to work with our local leaders and volunteers to find new ways to support our young people.

I am genuinely excited about the accomplishments our team at the TCG will make over the next three years and sincerely hope that more Tahltans will become engaged and participate in our collective decision making and initiatives. You can make your voice heard by joining our Youth or Elders Council, attending your Family Representative meetings, becoming involved in our HATs and cultural initiatives or by simply providing us feedback and suggestions through our numerous communication outlets.

In closing, I want to welcome all our new babies into the Nation and honour all those Tahltan members who recently passed away - may they live on forever in our memories and hearts.

Nedishchā,

Chad Norman Day, President
Tahltan Central Government

Welcome **Nateyah Marie Gibson**
Birthday: **February 12, 2016**
Weight: **7lbs 1oz**
Proud Parents: **Luke Gibson & Carla (Henyu) Gibson**

Welcome **Zayden Sade Tommy Andrew Dimotoff**
Birthday: **June 11, 2016**
Weight: **7lbs 7oz**
Proud Parents: **Daisy Henyu & Trevor Dimotoff**

Welcome **Colby Dawn Arabella Miller**
Birthday: **July 28, 2016**
Weight: **8lbs 5oz**
Proud Parents: **Chasity Rozsas & Tyrell Miller**

Welcome **Maeva Lilly-Belle Casey Jackson**
Birthday: **May 6, 2016**
Weight: **4lbs**
Proud Parents: **Stephanie Nole & Mas Jackson**

Welcome **Jayana Joy Barton**
Birthday: **July 18, 2016**
Weight: **8lbs 6oz**
Proud Parents: **Tawnya Barton & Jason Barton**

Welcome **Gianna Joan Riley Franke**
Birthday: **August 2, 2016**
Weight: **6lbs 11oz**
Proud Parents: **Tania Vance & Ryan Franke**

Did we miss your baby?
Contact communications@tahltan.org and we will include them in our next newsletter. Meduh!

Save the Date

September (TBA)

Simon Fraser University Tahltan Language Program in Dease Lake

Contact Judy Thompson for more information at: judithcthompson@gmail.com

Tahltan Elections Return Incumbents to Executive

Voting for the Tahltan Central Government executive took place over the three-day Annual General Assembly (AGA) July 1-3, 2016, and resulted in victories for each of the incumbent candidates. Chad Norman Day, President, Heather Hawkins, Vice President and Adrian Carlick, Secretary/Treasurer were each re-elected for a three-year term ending July 1, 2019. This marks the first term for the Tahltan Nation's central government that will last three years; the TCG bylaw on this point was changed at TCG's 2015 Annual General Assembly in Telegraph Creek.

President	Chad Day	531	64%	Elected
	Annita McPhee	297	36%	
Vice-President	Heather Hawkins	489	59%	Elected
	Ken Edzerza	337	41%	
Secretary/Treasurer	Adrian Carlick	666	81%	Elected
	Gayleen Day	160	19%	

Tahltan Band Re-elected Rick McLean as Chief and Welcome New Band Council

CHIEF	VOTES	RESULT
BROWN, THERESA ANNIE	42	
MCLEAN, RICHARD DANIEL	157	ELECTED
QUOCK, GERALDINE PATSY	38	
QUOCK, MELVA	72	
TASHOOTS, CLIFFORD GILBERT SR.	126	

COUNCIL	VOTES	RESULT
ADSIT, GLEN PHILLIP	70	
BALL, LILLIAN CHRISTINE	102	
BALL, ROXANNE LISA	154	
CAMPBELL, MAY LILLIAN	111	
CARLICK, PATRICK HENRY JR.	160	ELECTED
CREYKE, DARLA ANN	159	
EDZERZA, GERALDINE DAWN	79	
HAWKINS, SCOTT JOSEPH SR.	184	ELECTED
JACKSON, RICHARD	181	ELECTED
MARION, BRANDON ERNEST	78	
MARION, VERNON HENRY	155	
MCPHEE, CARMEN BARBARA	123	
QUOCK, BRIAN RICHARD JR.	107	
QUOCK, CLARENCE WILLIAM SR.	182	ELECTED
QUOCK, HARVEY HOWARD	52	
RATTRAY, CURTIS ALBERT	201	ELECTED

PRESIDENT'S PROFILE

Chad Norman Day is the son of Norman Day and the grandson to the late Doreen Day (nee Dennis) and John Frank Callbreath. The late Fletcher Day was Chad's surrogate grandfather. He belongs to the Eth'eni Family. Chad grew up in Telegraph Creek as a child and his fondest memories stem from living at the Days' Ranch during the summers with his parents, older sisters and extended family members.

Chad and his mother eventually moved to Smithers, BC where he graduated from high school in 2005. Throughout high school Chad excelled in his academic studies and was offered scholarships for his talents in basketball. He maintained strong connections with the Tahltan community throughout his life by spending every Christmas, Easter and the summer holidays in Telegraph Creek with his father and by working in the mining industry every summer after high school.

Chad originally planned to become a dentist but quickly set his sights on pursuing a career as a lawyer instead. During his undergraduate studies he learned about the ongoing injustices facing the First Nations people and became determined to return to his Tahltan community to make a positive difference at the political level. His first degree was attained through the University of Alberta where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 2010, majoring in both Native Studies and Political Science.

Following his first degree, Chad pursued a Juris Doctorate in Law and graduated from the University of Victoria law school in April of 2014. During his legal studies he worked with three law firms in Victoria, Kelowna and Smithers.

After law school, Chad was encouraged to become the next Tahltan President and he was successfully elected in July of 2014. Since that time, he has continually travelled and put his best efforts forward to fulfill his duties for the Tahltan Nation. His workload has forced him to spend equal amounts of time in Vancouver/Victoria and Tahltan Territory, as well as plenty of time between Smithers and Terrace working alongside the growing Tahltan Central Government staff. Community meetings with Tahltan members also take the TCG leadership to several other locations throughout BC, the Yukon and Alberta.

In his spare time Chad is normally with his children swimming, riding horses, hiking or playing sports or board games in Smithers. He has four children that belong to the Tahltan and Wet'suwet'en Nations - Malakai (10), Montay (9), Nahlin (6) and Nethenion (4).

VICE PRESIDENT'S PROFILE

Heather Hawkins, Vice President of the Tahltan Central Government is passionate, determined and has a vison for the future—a vision she is actively fostering through her public service.

“Many people ask me what motivates me to be the Vice President of the Tahltan Central Government, and my answer has been unwavering and simple—I hope that one day I will be remembered for contributing to the creation of a culturally rich, independent, self-governing Tahltan Nation which protects its heritage by managing our land, wild life and resources in the memory of our ancestors who fought to protect our territory for all Tahltan people, now and in the future."

Heather was first hired as the Fisheries Manager in June 2014 with Tahltan Band and in July 2014 was elected as the Vice President for the Tahltan Nation. She was again elected in 2016 for a three-year term.

In 2014, she says it was a “rocky start”. Upon arriving to Telegraph Creek, Heather was told there was a rock slide on the Tahltan River and she would need to find solutions to ensure fish could pass this rock slide and make their way up river so they could spawn. This was no easy task. After much consultation with the Department of Fisheries a solution was developed and the fish were flown past the rock slide. Not long after the fish spawning operation was completed—“she had just enough time to wash off the fish slime,” she says—Tahltan members began road blocks at the Imperial Metals’ Red Chris Project.

“We had several difficult conversations of how we can ensure the environment is going to be safe and usable for our future generations and gain a solemn oath that we will ensure fair hiring processes and management at the site," says Hawkins. After much discussion and consultation, the Red Chris Mine proposal went to a ratification vote and was resoundingly successful.

Next, the TCG began the arduous work of governance for our Nation--creating and implementing policies so that our government is properly structured and can more effectively represent our collective interests. This important process, now in place, provides a clearer understanding of each person’s roles and responsibilities and ensures both the Executive and the Board of Directors are accountable, fully transparent and trustworthy.

“I am very proud of the work that TCG has done these past two years, and in particular I am gratified to have played a role in developing and nurturing our TCG Administration team. It gives me great comfort to know that our team of dedicated Tahltan professionals are working collaboratively in the interest of building a strong, healthy, self-sufficient and united Tahltan Nation,” says Hawkins. “In my mind, this vision of an independent Nation has begun, and I am honored to be afforded the opportunity by our people to carry on this important work.”

Secretary/Treasurer's Profile

Within a few minutes of sitting down with Adrian Carlick, a soft-spoken guy that loves to play guitar, it is readily apparent that he has many interests. His ability goes far beyond art and music. He has a business degree, is a dedicated father and has the strength of character to chart his own course. It is clear that he is humbled that the membership of the Tahltan Nation selected him to continue on a 4th term as Secretary/Treasurer for TCG.

Adrian grew up in a family where he was taught the values of good parenting, helping others and giving back to the community. When asked what he would do if he won the lottery, he responded "In some ways I feel like I have won the lottery with the family I was raised in, where I grew up, the era I am living in. I learned good lessons and now feel especially fortunate to work collectively with the team at the TCG to help our community grow and prosper, while preserving our values and traditions" says Carlick.

Adrian's public service record illustrates how much he is giving to the community. He's been the Health Director for the former Tahltan Health and Social Services (based in Telegraph Creek), the Tahltan Central Council, Human Resource Coordinator for the Galore Creek Partnership, Education Director for the Iskut Band and Band Manager for the Tahltan Band.

Currently, along with his 4th consecutive term as Secretary/Treasurer for the TCG, Adrian is the Director of TahltanWorks, a department of the TCG that connects Tahltan workers to resource industry employers who are hiring for projects in Northern British Columbia, as well as implementing the Employment and Training sections of the Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA's) with nearby projects.

Being Director of TahltanWorks and the Secretary/Treasurer for the TCG are ideal jobs for Adrian. He's been preparing for this his whole life. Beginning with a business diploma followed by a business degree in entrepreneurial management and his burning desire to ensure that both organizations are transparent and accountable to the Tahltan people.

"I hope my legacy at the TCG will be for developing an accountable financial structure which we can count on to plan strategically and over the long-term," says Carlick. "Personally, I hope I am remembered for doing my best, being a good father, for being proud of where I came from and I helped level the playing field so all Tahltans prosper and live healthy, happy productive lives."

TCG Welcomes New Director of Finance

"It's an honour to work for the Tahltan Central Government and apply my diverse knowledge and passion for financial management. I look forward to working with the TCG team and the Tahltan people to develop a long-term strategic plan based on sound financial and management accounting principles," says Virginia Fuller, TCG Director of Finance.

Seasoned accounting and management professional responsible for planning, directing and controlling financial functions hired

In June, the Tahltan Central Government added Virginia (Ginger) Fuller to our team as Director of Finance. Ginger, who works out of the Terrace office, is a mother and a wife who enjoys the outdoors and loves walking her English Mastiff dog. She is described by her friends as quick-witted and generous.

As Director of Finance, Virginia will report to the TCG Executive Director and be responsible for planning, directing and controlling financial functions for the TCG. Virginia is a Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) who has 20 years of financial management experience in not-for-profit, small business and corporate settings, including the past 16 years working with First Nation organizations.

"The Tahltan Central Government is excited to welcome Virginia to our team. She is a motivated self-starter who can jump into complex situations and has the proven track record of managing multiple responsibilities and building top-performing teams that stay focused on organizational goals. In addition, she is an accomplished risk manager, problem solver with administrative and technical expertise," says Calvin Carlick, Executive Director of the TCG.

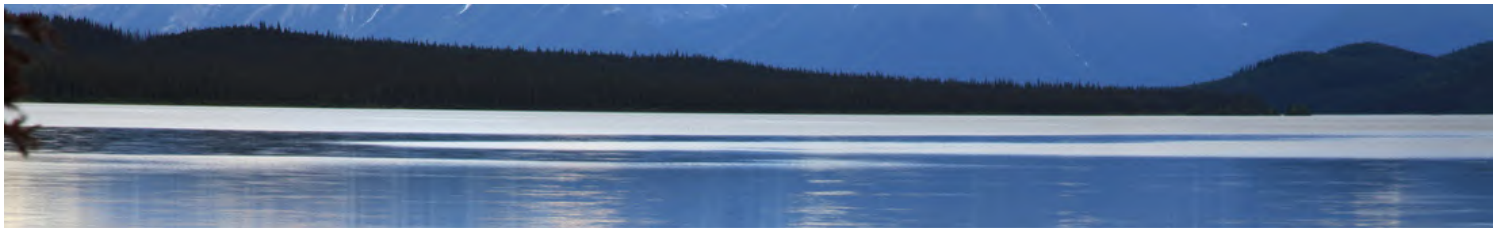
Virginia was most recently the Director of Finance and Human Resource Operations for the Kitselas First Nation, where she played an integral role in developing and overseeing budgeting and financial management in accordance with Public Sector Accounting and Auditing Standards. In previous positions Virginia helped forge a comprehensive five- year community strategic plan and build investment policy through research with resource organizations and tailoring policies to reflect current practices, community and culture.

Laurie Watt leaves for opportunities in the lower mainland

Over the past year we have had the honour of working with Laurie Watt, Director of Finance for the TCG. Laurie completed his contract in June, 2016 and decided to return to the lower mainland. We at the TCG thank him for his service and dedication.

Over Laurie's tenure he worked diligently to organize the TCG financial functions and create the systems necessary to ensure the TCG's financial status was transparent, accountable and auditable. We wish Laurie all the best in his future endeavors. Meduh Laurie for all you have done for the Tahltan Nation.

Summer at a Glance



TAHLTAN COUNTRY MUSIC
JAM
TURN
HERE

2016 Tahltan Graduation Profiles

Congratulations to all our Tahltan graduates, we wish you well in your future endeavours and pray each of you will enjoy a happy, healthy and prosperous future.

Marylee Quock

I will be enrolling in the CCP program to upgrade my math and science knowledge to meet the requirements needed for some of the environmental study programs. One year of upgrading will give me time to decide my career path and help to open up more opportunities. Whether I find myself working in environmental studies, in the trades or as a teacher working with students that have disabilities, I'll always remember where I started my education path, here at the Tahltan school.

Savanna Opal-Elayne Ball
(Esdo'nchoshe)

I am a proud member of the Etzenlee Family. I plan on getting a good job after high school and will look into furthering my education in the near future. I love art and my parents believe I am an amazing artist. I was also chosen as the best artist in my school two-years in succession. I feel that I can accomplish anything I put my mind to with hard work and dedication. Hard work pays off.

Morgan Quash

I absolutely love cooking and experimenting with new recipes so I have decided to take cooking up as a career. I have applied and have been accepted into the Thompson Rivers University (TRU) for Culinary Arts beginning of August 2016. My advice is to move forward and stay true to what you love doing.

Keegan Francis Joesph Zubek
(Achan-ta)

I plan on attending NWCC in September to continue my studies. After I finish this I will be applying to College/University for Natural Sciences. It has been something that has interested me for a while. Exciting times ahead.

Emilio Dakota Ferguson

My plan after graduation is to enter the work force and travel later. I've always wanted to travel; with a good job I can do this with ease.

Keenan Russell

My future plans after high school are to finish off my Bachelor of Business Administration and then move to Victoria to attend UVIC to pursue a Law Degree. Once I have my Law Degree I plan to stay single and live along the ocean.

Zialen Watson

I graduated with my Grade 12 Dogwood Diploma from Valleyview Secondary School but I am very passionate about hockey. It is my goal to make a Junior A or Junior B Team for next year and see where hockey will take me. I will eventually go back to school to attain a post-secondary education in Engineering or Science. My main goal is to eventually get an education that will give back to my family, my people and my Nation. Meduh.

Tianna Merrick

I plan on joining the work force for six months to save some money and to gain work experience. I will be returning to post-secondary in January for general studies. I will be attending the Thompson Rivers University (TRU). I will later apply for the Industrial Mechanic program to begin my career.

Alex D. Carlick
(Danielson)

I plan on a Service career with the Canadian Military, and I will be attending an Aboriginal Youth Military Camp this summer, called "Bold Eagle". At the camp I will be able to experience the Canadian Navy, Air Force and Army, to see which I may prefer. My alternate career choice is the Trades Program at TRU for Carpentry.

Mishayla Day

My plans after school is to try and get a job for the summer. Once September comes around I will be enrolling in a hairdressing course in Terrace. I've always liked the idea of working in a shop doing what I like.

Aysia Stade

I am proud to be a graduate from Parkland Secondary School in Victoria B.C. Past few years I have grown immensely through positive and negative experiences, from losing loved ones to creating new adventures. These have helped me change my perspective on life and made me realize my passion for adventure. Therefore, I plan to dive into a one year course at West Coast Adventure college. I am excited to see what this new chapter in my life brings me.

Tanner Louie

I am Tahltan/Haisla. Funny fact, I was the first one born in Dease Lake clinic. I was raised in Iskut and went to Klappan Independent Day School during elementary. I eventually started going to school in Dease Lake where I graduated. I love the sport of hockey. My future goal is to attend post-secondary for carpentry. I've always wanted to be a carpenter, I like working with my hands so it seems fitting.

Trysten Derrick

I plan to attend Vancouver Island University (VIU) located in Nanaimo for the Physical Education Program, a stepping stone for the career I wish to pursue. While at VIU I plan to play basketball on their varsity team. My end goal is to become a physiotherapist, taking my Masters at either UNBC or UBC.

Georgia Dennis

I will be expecting my first child on November 24th, 2016 and I plan on staying home with my baby until he/she is a year old. I believe the first year of a child's life has to be spent bonding with the parent. Afterwards I want to enroll in the Culinary Arts Course. Cooking has always captured me in a way that I can't explain. So it has always been in the back of my mind. My goal is to be a certified culinary practitioner.

Ainzley Brooks-Wikenheiser

I am 19 Years old and on June 29th I graduated from college. I was studying the Human Service Work Diploma Program at the Okanagan College in Kelowna. I will be continuing my studies to attain my Bachelors of Social Work in hopes to become a Family Support Worker or a Social Worker who works with Aboriginal Families. It's really exciting to know that things are just going to keep getting better.

Medrick Dennis

I plan to work for a year to get used to the work force and gain a little bit of skill before I go back to college to get my Heavy Equipment Operator ticket. So I can apply to many different places to do what I enjoy. I'm hoping to get in at the Red Chris Mine as it is closer to home and I can meet more Tahltan people from my home.

Victoria Mclean

In two months I will be going to University and start my journey in becoming a Veterinarian. I do not know where I would be without my grandparents Eugene and Lola Etzerza, Orville and Judy McLean, aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters Vanessa and Theresa McLean, my favourite little brother Kristopher McLean, and last but certainly not least, my parents Lorne and Sharon McLean.

Gavin Day

My name is Gavin Day. While I am working at Smithers Airport as a ground controller, my plan is to go to flying school eventually to get my pilot license and become a commercial pilot in the future.

OTHER TAHLTAN GRADUATES

Julianna Roberts

Layne Carlick

Chaz Carlick

Rymer Henyu

Jeremy Cambrin

Tamara Skubovius

Did we miss your graduation information?

Please send that information to communications@tahltan.org and we will include them in the next one.

2016 Hunting Season in Tahltan Territory

With hunting season just around the corner, TCG has been involved in some exciting new projects and initiatives. On May 27 and 28th we held our first annual Wildlife Symposium that brought together diverse voices to discuss important issues concerning the future of wildlife management in our region. One of the outcomes of the symposium was the formation of the Northern Wildlife Roundtable. The first roundtable meeting was held on July 11th and included representatives from the Kaska and Taku River Tlingit Nations, local resident hunters, the BC Wildlife Federation, the Tahltan Guide Outfitters Association and the Tahltan Nation. We focused on developing collaborative wildlife conservation, harvest, health, and management approaches. One of our guiding principles was, "We have come together to work for wildlife, not to fight over wildlife." This group will focus on tangible, practical and effective ways to achieve good stewardship outcomes for wildlife. One initiative being led by members of this group includes Clean the Stikine, which aims to remove garbage and other contaminants and pollutants that were left behind by a small number of visitors to the Stikine watershed. This work took place throughout the summer months.

Our 2016 Wildlife Guardian program is about to begin on the land monitoring throughout the Territory. The Wildlife Guardians, which include Jarett Quock along with several other Tahltan members, will be collecting information from all hunters, including Tahltan members. All information gathered will help us better understand and improve wildlife management practices because, "you can't manage what you can't measure." We ask Tahltans that when approached by a Wildlife Guardian, please be cooperative and compliant with information requested. All information gathered from our Tahltan members will be confidential and used only for the purpose of internal wildlife management; this data will not be shared with the Province.

We also want to inform Tahltan members there is a new regulation applicable to all hunters, including First Nations, within our Territory - the 400 meter single projectile (firearm) prohibited area now includes Highway 37 between the Skeena River bridge at Kitwanga and the intersection with the Yukon Border.

For additional information please contact:

Jarett Quock

Wildlife Guardian, Tahltan Central Government

wildlifeguardian@tahltan.org

Tahltan Central Government Kicks off Land Use Plan for Traditional Territory

The TCG kicked off the Land Use Planning process for our Traditional Territory at the AGA in Dease Lake over the July 1st long weekend. Our Land Use Plan (LUP) will be a planning tool that identifies the community's vision for the future use of Tahltan lands. It will define principles, goals, objectives and policies that will govern Tahltan Traditional Territory lands and provide a basis for decision making.

Christine Creyke, TCG Lands Director, along with our technical partners from Dillon Consulting, made presentations to the Elders Council, the Youth Council and general membership at the AGA. A Land Use Planning booth was set up where the planning team was available to answer questions, and hand out information sheets and questionnaires about members' priorities for the LUP.

The planning team also had a 'graffiti board' that asked members the question, "In 20 years, Tahltan Lands will provide…". Answers included: improve access to our sacred areas, utilize the trails (and fix them up), protection for our fish, healthy sustainable wildlife populations, and protection from resident hunting (over hunting).

The Youth Council played an interactive planning game that made them think about how a LUP could impact future land uses and shape Tahltan Lands. The Youth had many ideas for potential land use policies that might better reflect Tahltan values. Additionally, a drawing board was put up at the AGA for the kids, asking them to draw what they like to do on Tahltan Lands. Pictures included fishing on the Stikine River, swimming in the lake and playing with friends.

Members were asked to fill out questionnaires about their priorities for the LUP; results will be announced in our next newsletter. For filling out the questionnaire, member's names were put into a draw for a moose horn pendant in the shape of the Traditional Territory made by Fred Edzerza; the winner of the prize draw was Freda Campbell.

The LUP process is being led by the TCG Lands Director, Christine Creyke, and will involve extensive community consultation with all Tahltan members. The next step in the LUP process is to set up and recruit a Steering Committee and to pull together the work we have already done to complete a technical background report. Future events will be announced on the TCG website and Facebook group. An online engagement site open to Tahltan Nation members only has been set up for more information, comments, mapping and surveys. It can be found at www.tahltanland.org

For additional information please contact:

Christine Creyke

Lands Director, Tahltan Central Government

landsdirector@tahltan.org

Red Chris Mine Update

The Red Chris Mine has been in operation since 2015. It is an open pit copper mine that produces approximately 30,000 tonnes per day. In 2015, the Tahltan Nation signed an Impact Benefit and Co-Management Agreement with the Red Chris Development Corporation that formed the basis for our relationship with the mine. We continue to develop this relationship through jobs, training, environmental management and other areas included in the agreement.

Currently we are working on the review of permit applications for the south dam and south reclaim dam area. The permit applications we are reviewing for the project include amendments to the Environmental Assessment Certificate, the Environmental Management Act, the Mines Act permits, and the Federal Fisheries Authorization. Each application is detailed and includes information on the design, operation and closure of the south dam including water management and effects to the environment. A community meeting was held in Dease Lake on May 30th to discuss with the community the information in the permit applications as well as to meet people from the government and the company involved in the permit applications. A follow up meeting was held in Iskut on June 15th to provide further information regarding the mine and selenium. A bulletin providing answers to questions asked at the meetings is currently being developed. A Mines Act permit for the south reclaim dam has recently been issued to the company.

The Environmental Oversight Committee is a working group between the company and Tahltan to review the overall environmental management of the Red Chris mine. The members of the committee are Nalaine Morin, Christine Creyke, Shawn Ducharme and Jack Love. The committee has met several times this year including recently at the Red Chris mine site. The committee will meet again in Dease Lake in the fall of 2016.

For additional information please contact:

Christine Creyke

Lands Director, Tahltan Central Government

landsdirector@tahltan.org

Dease Lake Recreational Centre Expansion

The expansion will provide much needed space to hold events and other activities

A new 3,400 square foot expansion of the Dease Lake Recreational Centre will be an asset to the community, say recreation centre board members.

"The expansion will provide much needed space to host events and activities without having to worry about capacity."

The previous layout had a 400 square foot (20 by 20 feet) warm room which could not hold more than a handful of people. There were a lot challenges with the lack of spacing, limiting the available space for people to warm up, socialize and enjoy events.

The recreation centre would like to recognize and thank Clayton Thomas for making a commitment last Fall while doing major renovations to the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation building to complete some much-needed renovations. He returned in the Spring of this year to make this expansion a reality. The funding to make this project possible came from a number of sources which the community of Dease Lake would like to thank, the list as follows:

- Northern Development Initiative Trust

- Regional District Kitimat-Stikine

- Dease Lake Recreational Centre

- Klahdeehee Construction Ltd. (donated all labour costs)

"Meduh Chō" to Klahdeehee Construction Ltd. (owned by Clayton Thomas) for making such a huge commitment to the community of Dease Lake. The grand opening of the new space will be later this year.

Tahltan Youth Council Meeting

The Tahltan Youth Council met during the TCG Annual General Assembly to discuss the Youth Council Terms of Reference, the Iskut to Telegraph Creek Trail Hike, and to contribute to the future Tahltan Nation Land Use Plan.

A terms of reference for the TCG Youth Council is being developed to provide guidance on the roles and responsibilities and the governance of the Youth Council. A draft terms of reference is in progress and will guide the Youth Council with regard to decision making and priorities.

Final preparations were discussed for the Youth Council driven initiatives to re-open the historic Iskut-Telegraph Creek Trail, an important trade and service route that connected the communities. As part of the Healthy Active Tahltans (HATs) initiative, the 64.4 kilometre expedition will promote healthy active lifestyles while also conserving an important link in Tahltan culture and history. The hike took place in August and more details will be shared in the Fall Newsletter in November.

During an additional two-hour session following the Tahltan Youth Council meeting, several Youth again met to discuss what they felt were the most important considerations with regard to land use planning within the Tahltan Traditional Territory. The priorities identified by the Youth are posted on the Tahltan Land Use Planning website at www.tahltanland.org

"I am happy to see the commitment and enthusiasm of the members of the TCG Youth Council to make a positive contribution to the future of the Tahltan Nation. It is a pleasure for me to work with so many motivating and passionate people and I encourage more Tahltan Youth to become involved with the Youth Council and in our Nation's collective decision making," says Chad Norman Day, President of the Tahltan Central Government.

Calling all Youth

For additional information about the Tahltan Youth Council or its activities, please join the Tahltan Youth Council Facebook page or contact James Dennis at : communications@tahltan.org

Tahltan Nation Development Corporation Focused on Diversification

The summer months (construction season) are generally busy for TNDC and we hope this season will peak around 200 employees. It's also when our Nation gathers for the Tahltan Annual General Assembly (AGA), where TNDC provides a formal update to the membership on our activities.

We provided a highlight of our financial statements and operational activities for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Tahltan employment was lower than the last few years as activities have slowed in the territory. TNDC profits were also lower due to this slowdown and because TNDC invested almost $2 million of this year's cash (profits) into a major building expansion. At this point it's uncertain when things will pick up. Construction is complete and into cleanup on the AltaGas hydroelectric projects so we are pursuing smaller long-term maintenance contracts for the project. TNDC is also continuing construction work at Red Chris – the biggest project is continued construction of the tailings impoundment area.

Creating a strong Tahltan-based economy through reliable, meaningful, well-paying business, employment and contracting opportunities for Tahltan members is an ongoing priority. We are actively pursuing contracts for resource projects in our territory and establishing alliances with neighbouring First Nations to create opportunities outside our territory. TNDC will work with the TCG to ensure Tahltans can capitalize on these opportunities, and encourage entrepreneurship by generating opportunities for more Tahltan-owned businesses to share in our Nation's economic prosperity.

Keeping with our strategy to diversify our business model, we are establishing a Tahltan-owned fibre-optics company. In the short term it will provide fibre optic services to current major development projects within Tahltan Territory, with mid to long-term plans to expand services throughout the territory. Once complete we can provide a reliable high-speed communications backbone to support expanded business opportunities within Tahltan Territory.

Supporting our goal to improve efficiencies, maximize profitability and foster long-term growth, we completed a major financial and operational management system upgrade and year-long expansion of our headquarters. Office space has doubled for our corporate, construction, camp services, mechanical and business development divisions and almost tripled our maintenance area adding a new tool crib plus bays for repairs, washing and welding. There's also a new warehouse providing dedicated space for shipping, receiving and parts.

TNDC opened the doors of our new home on June 30th for a day of celebration, timed to coincide with the AGA and Elders Gathering to enable Tahltans to share in this exciting milestone of our nation's business arm. Approximately 300 people attended to celebrate this achievement with us. TNDC's shareholders have embarked on a Nation-wide search to replace three vacant TNDC board positions, ideally with the skills and experience to bring professional-level corporate law, financial management and communications perspectives. Appointments are made by the shareholders – Iskut Band, Tahltan Band and Tahltan Central Government. A strong, experienced and visionary board is essential to ensuring TNDC's economic, environmental and social prosperity, while delivering on our mandate to create an organization that generates wealth, economic, employment and training opportunities for all members of the Tahltan Nation.

Dease Lake Community Funding Committee Recommended

A third Dease Lake community meeting to determine how the funds generated by signing bonuses and revenue sharing by the British Columbia Government concluded in agreement that a committee made up of Tahltan members from the Dease Lake community should be created to help determine where the funding should be allocated.

Funding has been made available for community infrastructure and/or community programming through the Tahltan Protocol Agreement, where a percentage of funds from signing bonuses and revenue sharing by the British Columbia Government will be distributed for community use. The funds will be distributed equally and administered by the Iskut Band and Tahltan Band for the Iskut and Telegraph Creek communities, while funds for Dease Lake will be administered by the Tahltan Central Government.

Those in attendance at the third Dease Lake community funding meeting recommended that a non-biased committee be created to determine where the funds should be disbersed. Each year funds will be set aside for the Dease Lake community through the Red Chris and Altagas projects in Tahltan Territory, as well as any new signing and operational bonuses that may come through Tahltan Territory in any particular year.

The committee idea was suggested by the Tahltan members present at the meetings, but several questions remain to be answered including if potential members would be appointed and what the criteria for appointment to the committee would be. TCG will administer the funds and ensure accountable practices are followed.

The majority of those at the meeting agreed that selection of members should be restricted to Tahltan members who currently live in Dease Lake and the TCG should accept applications of interested parties and people who are interested should be conflict free and not have a vested interest in where the funds are disbersed.

It was suggested the TCG should administer the funds, meaning that the committee is not a legal entity rather an advisory committee that helps determine how funds should be used for Dease Lake. Once the committee is formed, the committee would develop terms of reference and take suggestions, proposals from the community at large. The comments and considerations of the community funding meetings and the surveys are currently being reviewed by the TCG and next steps will be announced shortly.

Healthy Active Tahltans

Hankin Asp

Hello my name is Hankin Asp and I live in Dease Lake. My parents are Edward Sr. and Daisy Asp. My grandparents are Henry and Edna Quock. I first heard about the bike ride from Rick McLean, he had been asking me to join the bike ride and I had always made an excuse to not join. This year I decided on doing the ride because of the local participation. There were a number of other people that had planned on joining which also made it easier. I trained with locals prior to doing the Tour De Telegraph.

The overall experience of being able to complete the bike ride was awesome. Getting a chance to see our country from the seat of a bike was amazing. The interaction with all the bike riders was an experience that anyone would enjoy. There were various levels of experience from seasoned riders to some that have just begun. The interaction of the riders at each check point made it most enjoyable, everyone was in good spirits and having fun.

My advice for anyone wanting to join the bike ride is to train before the ride. It makes a difference getting used to your bike and how hard bike seats really are. That advice was given by someone who participates every year. Secondly, get a mountain bike that suits your size and has a seat with padding. This year with the ability to ride as a team, individuals could pick and choose what sections they wanted to ride.

In closing I want to thank the organizers and all the volunteers who created such a great event. See you all next year!

Crystal Donio

My name is Crystal Donio, I am part of the Wolf clan and my Tahltan name is Daskidlema. My parents are Christine and Greg Inkster and my biological father is Roy Hawkins. My grandparents are Emma and Herbert Hawkins, Lucille Seymor and Arlene Beck.

I first heard about the Tour De Telegraph ride five years ago when Rick Mclean started it but I was living in Toronto and starting a family so I wasn't able to participate. It wasn't until this year, now that I was done having my two babies and back in B.C, that I was able to travel and participate in the ride. I was also fortunate enough to get sent up with CFNR as I am an Account Executive with them and have been for the past year. CFNR covers this ride every year.

I wanted to do the ride because I've always been somewhat athletic and competitive with myself. I wanted to see if I could finish it and the idea of riding with a bunch of my fellow Tahltans on a crazy terrain and in beautiful Tahltan country was appealing to me. To train for the ride I did a few practice runs from Telkwa to Smithers and back but I'm also an avid Spinner. I love to go to spin class as well as Pilates on a regular basis and I'm sure all my spinning helped me complete the ride.

I can't stress enough what an amazing experience the ride was! When I finished it I was overwhelmed with joy. So proud of my fellow Tahltans and so proud to be Tahltan. I was super inspired. It was a long 10 hours but I will continue to take part in this amazing ride for charity that Rick started, every year from now on. I made new friends and got closer to existing ones. The ride brought me back to my homeland and inspired me to stay fit, make goals and conquer them. It was an experience of a life time and a ride I'll never forget.

Tamara Skubovious

"I would also like to provide an alternative narrative to mass-industrial changes in our territory and believe art can tell stories that words cannot."

My name is Tsēma Tamara Skubovius, I belong to the Etheni family and the Tseskiye (Crow) clan. I am 31 years old and currently live in Toronto, Ontario. I am a practicing artist working for the Tāłtān language revitalization program as an illustrator and designer for a series of children's books and a language app to be released in the upcoming year.

I was a full-time student finishing my Master of Fine Arts thesis at Ontario College of Art and Design University in Toronto in the Interdisciplinary Master in Art, Media and Design, and graduated in May 2016. I have also attended Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver where I received my Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2011. I have worked towards degrees in general visual arts which has led me to get my masters degree in contemporary art with a special focus on social practice.

I am most fulfilled to learn and teach Tahltan art, language and culture so it will continue to be distinguished in our communities and beyond. I would also like to provide an alternative narrative to mass-industrial changes in our territory and believe art can tell stories that words cannot. My education has provided space for me to research, dialogue and make art that actively deconstructs and (re)construct linkages to the land through artistic interventions that connects city spaces to the constructed wild, materials to mine sites, and bodies to the land.

One of the challenges I face like many Indigenous people educated through colonial systems is that I've had to overcome negative stereotypes of First Nations people. These associations have motivated me to continue to focus on my education and transcend the mainstream notion of what and who a First Nations person is. I have also struggled to justify my life's path as an artist which carries a certain financial risk and precarious reputation in both Indigenous and Western societies. I believe artists have a prerogative or responsibility to observe and respond to issues in our communities that other disciplines struggle to address.

Over the years I have learned a plethora of methods for making art, but more importantly I have learned what material can have meaning or associations to communicate through visual language. So I would say to my fellow Tahltans, follow your dreams, if you like to work with your hands and also be mentored by those who make meaningful art, I recommend going to art school. I highly recommend Emily Carr and OCAD universities.

Tamara Wants to Say Thanks

I would like to say Meduh (thank you) to my mentors from school, especially Brenda Crabtree and Merritt Johnson from Emily Carr University. Also my advisors at OCADu, Ryan Rice and Julie Nagam for your wisdom and guidance. Meduh to my life partner, Jonathan Igharas, for all your help, late night edits, patience and design assistance. Last but not least, Meduh to my family for your love and support, nedis'cha (I love you).

Brandon McLean

"People tend to overdo it or underdo it sometimes, I like following my body and what it tells me."

My name is Brandon Lee McLean; I am 16 years old. My parents are Tim McLean and Noreen Vance with my grandparents are Henry and Janet Vance, as well as Orville and Judy. I am from the Carlick family and the Crow Clan. I am a power lifter.

I started lifting weights because of the negative feelings of being an overweight 13-year-old boy. It took a toll on my self-esteem so I decided to make a change. I started eating properly and training, dedication was the key.

People ask how I stay motivated even after getting into good shape and how the feeling doesn't fade. Well, I like staying healthy and fit, it becomes an addiction after a while. Once you get into routine it kind of sticks, just like eating unhealthy. Competition wise, the reason I always stay ahead of the game is because I never want my personal records to go down on my bench press, my dead lift and my squat. I work out every day to obtain bigger larger numbers, my plan is to continue to break records. I hold a few records in my division already; 248lbs for my bench press, 314lbs for my squat and 408lbs for my deadlift.

I like when people ask what my work out schedule is, I reply with; I don't have one. People tend to overdo it or underdo it sometimes, I like following my body and what it tells me. So as long as my mind and body agree then my schedule is always in my head. My body and mind knows what it needs to be better so on average I train about five days a week.

My advice to Tahltan people wanting to join the sport of lifting would be; if you ever feel like giving up, remember why you started. Don't give up on your dreams, stay true and you will be happy.

I want to thank my brother Allen Vance for getting me started on this healthy lifestyle and I really appreciate him getting me into this sport 3 years ago. I don't know where I would be right now if it wasn't for his motivation.

Brandon's Advice to other Tahltan Youth

My advice to Tahltan people wanting to join the sport of lifting would be if you ever feel like giving up, remember why you started. Don't give up on your dreams, stay true and you will be happy.

If you have any stories that you would like to share for the next newsletter, please email them to communications@tahltan.org, or bring in a hard copy to the TCG office in Dease Lake.

TAHLTAN
Central Government

If you have not yet joined TCG's Facebook Page, please head to **www.facebook.com/tahltangovernment** to stay up-to-date with Tahltan Nation news and events, job postings, member birthdays, anniversaries and other accomplishments.