TAHLTAN
Central Government

Tatl'ā means Fall
in the Tahltan Language

TAHLTAN QUARTERLY | TATL'Ā 2015

President's Message

Tahltans,

I hope the fall season has been good to you and your families. It was awesome to see the pictures and share in some experiences over the past three months as our communities focused on hunting, picking berries, preparing for winter and going back to school. I trust all our students are working hard to further their education; we are very proud of their accomplishments and ongoing efforts.

It is my honour to provide an update on the work the TCG has been doing since our last newsletter. We have continued to focus on internal capacity building to strengthen our government and improve the advocacy and services we provide to all Tahltans. This includes establishing dedicated departments that focus on finance, lands and communications. As well, we recently hired a new executive director, director of communications and director of TahltanWorks. You can learn about them on page 5. I welcome them on board and look forward to reporting on their efforts to improve our effectiveness and communications as an organization in supporting our people to take advantage of training and employment opportunities.

Improving governance and inclusion has been another priority. We organized the Tahltan Elders Gathering in Dease Lake during September and the Tahltan Youth Gathering in Terrace in October. Both Tahltan Elders and Youth have created working groups to establish terms of reference and mandates that will allow them to come together to advise the Tahltan leadership about their respective interests. We are committed to ensuring both groups have a strengthened role within our decision-making processes.

The TCG board and executive also held sessions focused on strategic visioning and economic planning with the band councils, Tahltan business owners, and TNDC in Terrace in early November. These sessions will help ensure we are united as a Nation in our priorities to improve Tahltan governance and our economy into the future.

Wildlife concerns in Tahltan Territory continued this past hunting season and TCG has been pursuing various strategies to ensure our wildlife populations remain sustainable for our future generations. This season we started our own wildlife guardian program that saw Tahltan members work with conservation officers in the field. The experience we gained will enable us to strengthen and improve it next year. We are also collaborating with neighboring First Nations, guide outfitters, scientists and others to ensure we see serious changes to the way wildlife regulations are established and enforced in Northern British Columbia.

Encouraging and supporting healthier children and communities across the Tahltan Nation is another initiative dear to our hearts. The Healthy Active Tahltans (HATs) initiative can help us drive change and lead by example. We held sessions in our home communities in October to talk about healthy eating and activities and participate in a group walk, which we profile in this edition. I'm excited to spend further time with our children in the new year for a winter HATs event.

Lastly, I want to welcome the new Tahltan babies and acknowledge the beloved Tahltans we lost recently: Loveman Nole, May Jakesta, Roma Joyce Walker and Eddie Davidson.

As this will be our last newsletter for 2015, I want to take this opportunity to thank all members of the TCG staff for their hard work and dedication this past year, and the TCG board and executive for their support and contributions to our Nation. I wish all our members a happy, peaceful holiday season and look forward to continuing our work on your behalf in 2016.

Nedishchā,
Chad Norman Day, President
Tahltan Central Government

Welcome New Tahltans

Welcome **James Frederick Dennis Jr**
Birthday: **August 11, 2015**
Weight: **5lbs 4oz**
Proud Parents: **James Dennis & Jaylene Sampson**

Welcome **Jackson Clayton Cooper**
Birthday: **October 9, 2015**
Weight: **8lbs**
Proud Parents: **Wade Cooper & Hayley Hannah**

Welcome **Eva Lou-Lana Yvette Nole**
Birthday: **September 30, 2015**
Weight: **7lbs 6oz**
Proud Parents: **Keith Nole & Angelita Nole**

Welcome **Kaidince Patrick Carlick-Beck**
Birthday: **August 13, 2015**
Weight: **9lbs**
Proud Parents: **Mikayla Middlebrook & Austin Carlick**

Welcome **Eunice Alvina Fanny Robinson**
Birthday: **August 16, 2015**
Weight: **7lbs 8oz**
Proud Parents: **Leanne Woods & Fredrick Robinson**

Welcome **Shanece Alara Boys**
Birthday: **October 21, 2015**
Weight: **7lbs 11oz**
Proud Parents: **Johnny Boys & Samantha Wilson**

Welcome **Abigail Faith Moore**
Birthday: **April 4, 2015**
Weight: **8lbs 4oz**
Proud Parents: **Grant Moore & Miranda Jackson**

Welcome **James Taylor**
Birthday: **October 15, 2015**
Weight: **7lbs**
Proud Mother: **Tamar Taylor**

Welcome **Lucas McPhee**
Birthday: **October 27, 2015**
Weight: **8lbs 13oz**
Proud Parents: **Rob McPhee & Kathy McPhee**

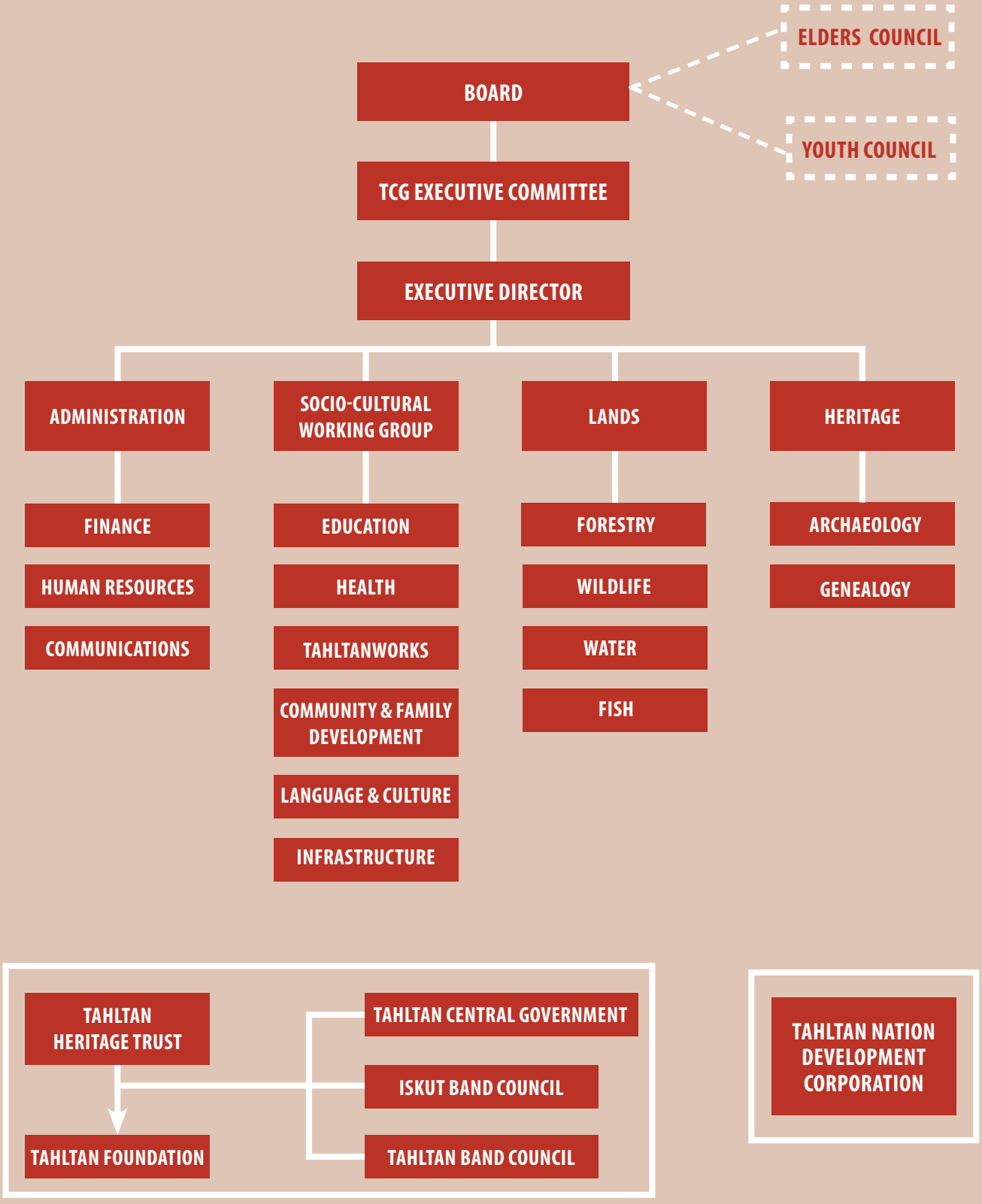
Did we miss your baby?

Let us know! Contact communications@tahltan.org and we will include them in our next newsletter. Meduh!

Save the Dates

Elders Council Gathering
November 28/29, Terrace
TCG and Tahltan Band Christmas Party
November 30, Telegraph Creek
Dease Lake Annual Bazaar
December 5, Dease Lake
17th Annual TNDC Christmas Party
December 12, Dease Lake
Tahltan Band Raffle
December 14, Telegraph Creek Rec Centre
Tahltan Community Christmas Concerts
December 16, Dease Lake
December 17, Iskut and Telegraph Creek
Urban Tahltan Christmas Dinner
December 18, Terrace

Tahltan Central Government Organizational Chart



TCG Welcomes New Staff and Board Members

Calvin Carlick, Executive Director

Calvin joined TCG as executive director in October. He will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of TCG, including implementing new systems and processes to improve our efficiency, and will establish and oversee three new developing departments – Communications, Lands and Finance. Calvin will work with the TCG executive team and staff, primarily from TCG's new satellite office in Terrace, and divide his time at the main office in Dease Lake. He has served on the board of TNDC since 2009, and has taken on the role of TNDC's chairman since 2014. Prior to TCG, Calvin worked as an economic development officer with Kitselas First Nation and Iskut Band Council.

Deena Tokaryk, Director of Communications

Deena joined TCG as director of communications in November and will serve as communications manager for TNDC. Deena will be a familiar face to some Tahltans. She comes from PR Associates, a communications agency, where she worked since 2011 with Aboriginal communities and businesses, including TNDC and previously with TCG supporting our communications and community liaison team. Deena is thrilled to be working directly with TCG and TNDC, applying her knowledge and experience to help improve our communications with members, government and industry. Prior to PR Associates, Deena held communication roles with the BC Treaty Commission and TELUS. She has a marketing communications management diploma from the British Columbia Institute of Technology and a certificate in Managing Internal and External Communications for Organizations from Simon Fraser University.

Adrian Carlick, Director of TahltanWorks

Adrian assumed his new role in October. He will be responsible for overseeing the ongoing development and implementation of a Tahltan labour market strategy. As well, he will manage relationship building and coordination with government, potential employers, education bodies and other service providers to identify and create relevant opportunities for skills development among Tahltans. Furthermore, his role will include ongoing consultation with our people to understand changing employment and training needs. Adrian has a long history with TCG: he has served on the Executive for many years and as human resources coordinator from 2006-2008. Prior to TCG, he served as senior community relations liaison with TransCanada and education director with Iskut Band Council.

Carmen McPhee, Good-za-ma Family Representative

Congralulations to Carmen McPhee on being appointed as our new Good-za-ma family representative. She recently finished her study at Northwestern Community College and achieved her Diploma of Business Administration. Currently, Carmen lives in Terrace, BC and is working on obtaining her real estate license. Carmen is committed to contributing her knowledge and skills to our Nation and will continue her education to inspire more Tahltan members to pursue a professional career.

Lee Marion, Shoe-Kawk/Howd-A-Ghtte Family Representative

We're pleased to welcome Lee as a new family representative. An Elder and member of the Crow Clan, Lee brings valuable perspective. Born and raised in Telegraph Creek where he has lived his entire life, he is familiar with the challenges facing the community, such as housing and land use planning. He understands some Tahltan and continues traditional practices such as hunting moose. Lee makes snowshoes and has worked in the local post office for more than 10 years. Lee joins the board because he wants to bring about positive change for the Nation and has served as a Tahltan advisor on the THREAT team for several years.

Strengthening Tahltan Governance

We are pleased to provide an update regarding the implementation of the Tahltan Governance Protocol, signed this past summer at the Annual General Assembly by TCG President Chad Day, Tahltan Band Chief Terri Brown and Iskut Band Chief Marie Quock.

Building from Tahltan values of respect, fairness, equality and unity, the Protocol was established to support progressive, effective and collaborative governance, for the benefit of all Tahltans. It will also help to build unity, enhance governance capacity among our leadership and strengthen the relationship among our organizations.

Since the signing of the Protocol, the Iskut Band and Tahltan Band were approved for funding by the federal government to strengthen the Nation's ability to plan, protect and manage our territories and resources for the long-term benefit of Tahltan people.

The funding was allocated towards bringing the leadership together for the first time to develop a strategic plan, including a vision for the Tahltan Nation. The TCG executive and board and councils from the two bands held an initial strategic planning session and governance training on November 9 and 10 in Terrace, BC.

Developing our strategic plan is a major step towards implementing the Protocol and strengthening the relationship among our organizations. The Protocol establishes a Leadership Forum where elected chiefs, councillors and TCG directors will meet at least twice a year to tackle common issues, set strategic priorities and maximize opportunities for the Tahltan Nation.

We are excited to be building unity within our Nation and look forward to sharing more information with you as we work to implement the Protocol.

Obsidian and Archaeological Site Discoveries in Tahltan Territory

The first ever independent Tahltan archaeological crew completed an 11-day field season in the summer of 2015. The pictured artifact is a significant archaeological find. Further, having photograph of the same artifact type attached to an ancestor's knife handle taken at the Smithsonian Museum in New York, builds on research of Tahltan Ancient Ones - those that walked this land before us.

Obsidian tool/artifact found this summer in Tahltan territory (Left)
Knife from the area at the Smithsonian Museum, not on exhibit (Right)

The field crew consisted of Tahltan Central Government's archaeologist (Vera Asp), three other archaeologists (Duncan McLaren, George Kauffman and Brendan Gray), and three TCG representatives (Sterling St. Eloi, Johnny Bob and George Dennis).

"The archaeological record indicates the inter-continental trade of obsidian from Tahltan Territory for 12,000 years and when our team finds an artifact such as we did last summer, it feels amazing, a blessing, a gift from the ancestors to understand ourselves better" says Vera Asp.

Tahltan-Kaska-Tlingit Nations Wildlife Management Partnership Update

On September 11th, leadership from the Kaska, Tahltan and Tlingit Nations met with Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and his team to discuss pressing issues about hunting and wildlife management across the collective territories of the 3-Nations.

At the meeting, leaders asked the Minister for seven things:

1) Commitment to develop a work plan among our three Nations and the Provincial government.

2) Work with other Provincial departments to find ways of increasing monitoring resources across our combined territory.

3) Work with our Nations to submit suggested regulatory changes.

4) Support the continued partnership between our Nations and FLNRO staff around capacity building, game management and game monitoring.

5) Provide resources to plan and implement changes to wildlife management in the region.

6) Provide resources to support a Tahltan guardianship and monitoring program for the current season, supporting similar existing programs in place for the Kaska and Tlingit Nations.

7) Provide future resources for community-based monitoring and guardianship programs.

Tahltan leadership was very pleased with the meeting and several requests have already been confirmed. The Minister agreed all remaining requests will be addressed by early November.

Minister Steve Thomson said: "I understand the importance of wildlife to First Nation communities, and I also appreciate the collective approach the Tahltan, Kaska and Taku River Tlingit Nations are taking to this important work. I look forward to working together in a spirit of collaboration in the coming weeks and months."

The 3-Nations and FLNRO worked intensely over September and October. As of today there is implementation of and commitment to:

- 10 Land Guardians/Monitors across the 3-Nations (includes a new Tahltan Land Guardian program to be implemented immediately)
- Increase game checks across the region for this season
- A 3-Nations and FLNRO work plan to address long standing issues and further their "collaboration in practice"
- Work with the Ministry of Environment for additional Conservation Officer resources
- Coordinate the installation of 37 new conservation signs across that region
- Continue our unified Kaska, Tahltan and Tlingit wildlife team who will work collaboratively with our FLNRO partners to find ongoing solutions

Career Profile: Tahltans Who are Protectors

Several Tahltans have chosen careers in the military and share their thoughts on this challenging, rewarding and honourable career path:

Brandi Cook

I have always wanted to be part of an organization that was helping people, whether it be in Canada or abroad. I joined to be a part of something that was bigger than what I could accomplish on my own. The military has taught me a range of beneficial traits I can carry over to any other career and that benefit me outside my work. Time management, teamwork, ethics, morals, and I think the most important, is to always hold myself to a higher standard. The most challenging aspect to the military for me was the time away from home. I immediately was posted to Ontario far from my family and support system. I had to learn how to make it completely on my own, but in the end I think I'm a better person for it. Being away from my kids and husband is always hard, but it is also rewarding to see the world and other cultures. Be prepared to not be posted anywhere near home. It is hard work and the training is difficult but if I can do it, anyone can.

Curtis Rattray

My career started in the Royal Canadian Army Cadets at the age of 19. I enrolled in the Canadian Reserves on the Cadet Instructors List, became a commissioned officer and eventually attained Captain rank, before joining the Canadian Armed Forces as an Armoured Crewman. I wanted to help people and learn more about leadership. I was sent to eastern Canada in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia for basic training, then to Petawawa, Ontario for trades training. My next course was basic gunnery, which provided the skills and theory for an armoured gunner to hit targets from 500 to 1,000 metres. I was then a qualified armoured crewman and spent a couple years practicing my craft. We learned how to camouflage our armoured vehicles, spend the night in tactical 'hides' and do sentry (patrol). There were a few 'live fire' exercises, but we usually used blank or practice rounds. My final course was basic parachuting, which provided skills to parachute and land on the ground with full equipment.

Gladys Quash

I joined the armed forces in 1981 and served until 1996. I was motivated to join for a different lifestyle and new opportunities. I served in Chilliwack, Montreal and Calgary. I learned valuable survival skills and life skills I didn't know existed, and gained a trade – Mobile Support Equipment Operator. What challenged me most was being so shy and feeling scared about communicating with other people, but I didn't want to give up. Moving forward is the hardest part, but very rewarding. I have three children. My time in the army helped them learn to be appreciative and grateful. We lived a normal lifestyle; I was there for them everyday, giving 100%. There is no life like the military! It is an eye opener, very challenging, and helps you grow with confidence.

Jennifer Webber

I joined the armed forces because I like travelling, meeting people and gaining education. I learned many important values – teamwork, discipline, respect and self control, which helped me make other career choices. There's an old saying, "once in the military, always in the military"; you become a part of a family that lasts beyond discharge, which is a benefit.Feeling homesick and experiencing personality conflicts are two unavoidable challenges. The people you're stationed with are like a chain link; the chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Respect was earned and rules had to be followed at all times. There were harsh penalties even for minor issues; any mistake could lead to dishonorable discharge. I thought I would retire or die a hero, but was injured at 32, so could no longer work. But I have no regrets. It was a valuable and worthwhile experience. If you want to join, be aware of the commitment and prepared physically and mentally before entering.

Rose Smith

I joined the army at a very young age under the Native program. Back then I wasn't sure what I wanted to do or what my future would hold, plus jobs were very scarce. I learned many beneficial values such as work ethic, discipline, trades training, security and self-confidence. You were always learning, teaching or setting standards. Being away from home was the main difficulty for me. The first two years were the hardest; after that I made long-time friends who felt like family. I recommend a career in the army because it's a great experience; it gives you structure, balance, self-confidence and offers valuable higher education.

Marvin Quash

Growing up I always wanted to join the army, after learning about World War II in school and as young kids playing "army" and to see the countries we learn about. I learned discipline about working with others, how to report to work on time, and wear clean work clothes every day. Luckily for me there were no difficulties since I had left home at an early age to attend residential school at Lower Post, and the physical part was easy having grown up in Telegraph Creek with all the hills to climb. If you're considering the army I recommend you get an education while you're serving and join with a buddy, as you might serve in the same trade or unit.

Pardner Payne

I knew I wanted to join the army since I was a child. I gained excellent experience and personal values during my term in the army – self discipline, leadership skills, and perhaps the most valuable asset was a strong education in the medical field. I don't see that much challenge serving the armed forces. Most people might feel homesick quite often; many people visited home a lot. But that wasn't my case; I didn't return home for two years at one time. My advice if you join the army is to leave your ego behind and just go for it. Everyone I know who joined, stayed.

Bill McPhee

I wanted to be a Drafter (compulsory military service), so I joined the armed forces. I worked in different locations and played different roles while serving my term – Engineer Corporation, Surveying, Road, Airport. Looking back, the most difficult time was being shipped overseas, serving in the Vietnam War for one year. So I encourage Tahltans who want to join the army to really consider the potential risk of going into a war and sacrificing your life; it is a serious decision to make. You may consider getting a trade instead.

Dakota Williams

I joined the army because I had always wanted to serve the Nation and bring back knowledge to my people. I served in New Zealand, Australia and the United States. I learned valuable skills in leadership, recording, working in big and small groups, and small and large tasking (carrying out commands). Leaving home wasn't as easy as you may imagine. There were challenges, but I knew if I didn't challenge myself and carry more responsibility, I wouldn't gain the experience and skills to help me grow personally. I encourage anyone who wants to join the armed forces to go for it!

Bill Adsit

When I got out of residential school in Whitehorse and moved to Alberta, I was an angry, rebellious young man and found I didn't fit into the new high school community. In frustration, I quit in Grade 12 and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. I was sent to Saint-Jean, Quebec for basic training, then to Clinton, Ontario for trades training. I trained as a Telecommunications Operator (TO) and learned Morse code, the teletype and anything to do with military communication. I placed number one in the TO course, which enabled me to have my pick of military stations in Canada. I choose Nameo, near Edmonton. The TO training was extremely valuable. It led to a career with Transport Canada after I left the military. The military is an excellent place to learn discipline, get a trade and travel to other parts of the world.

Aboriginal Army Program

The "Canadian Forces Experience" programs introduce you to the type of work we do, the way we train and how we live, without joining the Forces for your whole career. At the end of the program, you may choose to apply to the Forces. You will gain the leadership, work skills and dedication to be successful in whatever path you choose.

There are specific conditions for applying to each of the programs. However, for all of the programs you MUST:

1) Be an Aboriginal Person (First Nation(s) Status or Non-Status, Métis or Inuit)
2) Be a Canadian citizen
3) Be at least 17 years of age (with parental/guardian consent) or older
4) Have completed Grade 10 or Quebec Secondaire IV
5) Meet the Forces common enrolment medical standard

Note: you can apply to and attend the Raven, Bald Eagle and Black Bear programs at age 16 provided you are in school full time.

For more information please visit: http://www.forces.ca/en/page/aboriginalprograms-93

We're Seeking Your Input on the Seabridge Gold KSM Project

The Kerr Sulphurets Mitchell (KSM) project, owned by Seabridge Gold, is a proposed gold, copper and molybdenum mine located 65 kilometres northwest of Stewart, BC. Part of this proposed mine, considered one of the largest undeveloped gold reserves in the world, would be located in the southern region of Tahltan Territory.

Project status

The KSM Project was granted Environmental Assessment Certificates by the BC government in July 2014 and by the federal government in December 2014. The project is in advanced stages of permitting for a Mines Act permit amendment and an Environmental Management Act permit, and is continuing ongoing exploration. Construction on the project hasn't started yet. Seabridge is currently focused on obtaining operating permits, strategic partnerships and financing prior to the start of construction, and is interested in negotiating an impact benefit agreement (IBA) with the Tahltan Central Government (TCG).

Upcoming meetings

As part of our commitment to ensure Tahltan members are informed about resource development projects in our territory and provide direction to the leadership on which projects to support, we are holding a series of community information meetings at the end of November.

Have your say

The purpose of these meetings will be to enable you to learn about the KSM Project and its impacts to the Tahltan Nation and ask questions of Seabridge. We also want to hear your thoughts, questions and concerns about the project. And we want to learn whether or not you want TCG to enter into negotiations with Seabridge for an IBA, and if so, what issues and factors should be considered.

Plan to attend

We encourage you to join us to learn about the KSM Project, share your feedback and ask questions of Seabridge and TCG. Seabridge representatives, TCG leadership, our environmental expert and our lead negotiator will attend these meetings.

What you need to know about the KSM Project

• The Tahltan Heritage Resources Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT) has been working on the KSM project since 2007, which has included:

1) A comprehensive technical review of the project and a recommendations report submitted to the BC Minister of the Environment and Minister of Energy and Mines.

2) Participated in all project working group meetings as part of the environmental assessment process.

3) Met several times with Seabridge Gold to discuss Tahltan concerns about the project. A number of these concerns have been considered and incorporated into the design.

• The TCG leadership has met with Seabridge representatives several times. Seabridge representatives have also visited the Tahltan communities of Dease Lake, Iskut and Telegraph Creek on numerous occasions over the past several years to discuss the project.

• Seabridge Gold and TCG have:

1) A Communications Agreement, which outlines a communications process as well as provides funding to support and facilitate discussions regarding the KSM project.

2) An Environmental Assessment Agreement, which enabled the funding capacity for THREAT's review of the application for the KSM project.

3) Seabridge provided funding and the TCG has completed a traditional knowledge study of the KSM project area.

• The November meetings will enable Seabridge to visit communities outside the territory to enable Tahltan members to learn more about the project.

Mark your calendars

Meeting dates and times are confirmed for the communities below. Venues are being arranged. Stay tuned for a call from a TCG community liaison and be sure to check the TCG website (www.tahltan.org) and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/tahltangovernment) for details, including dates for additional communities.

Community	Date	Time
Prince George	Sunday, November 22	10:00am to 1:00pm
Fort St. John	Sunday, November 22	6:00pm to 9:00pm
Vancouver	Monday, November 23	5:30pm to 8:30pm
Iskut	Tuesday, November 24	5:30pm to 8:30pm
Telegraph Creek	Wednesday, November 25	5:30pm to 8:30pm
Dease Lake	Thursday, November 26	5:30pm to 8:30pm
Smithers	Friday, November 27	5:30pm to 8:30pm
Terrace	Saturday, November 28	5:00pm to 8:00pm
Whitehorse, Lower Post/Watson Lake, Fort Nelson & Edmonton	Dates to be confirmed	Times to be confirmed

Tahltan Nation Development Corporation named BC Aboriginal Community-Owned Business of the Year

October 14, 2015 was a night of celebration for TNDC when it received the BC Aboriginal Business Award for Community-Owned Business of the Year from the British Columbia Achievement Foundation, recognizing TNDC's contribution to creating a strong economy for the Tahltan community. TNDC was delighted to have a number of its workers, managers, board members, business and industry partners and Tahltan leaders on hand to celebrate the occasion.

"It was a special night and an incredible honour to accept the award on behalf of the TNDC team, in recognition of the significant contributions our company has made to the Tahltan Nation over the past 30 years, ensuring community members benefit from responsible development in the territory," said TNDC CEO/President Garry Merkel. "TNDC's recognition is a credit to the founders, leaders and employees past and present whose passion, dedication and contributions have built the company into the successful corporation it is today."

The accolade is particularly fitting as 2015 marks TNDC's 30th year of operations, a journey which has seen the company evolve from its early roots as a commercial and residential construction company into a multi-million dollar corporation serving the resource industry and employing hundreds of Tahltans on an annual basis.

Tahltan Nation invests in Imperial Metals

Tahltan Nation Development Corporation board chair Calvin Carlick said: "This investment is a unique opportunity to contribute to a project that has tremendous economic value to our Nation."

Tahltan Nation Development Corporation (TNDC) announced on August 26 that it has invested in Imperial Metals, the company that owns the Red Chris mine in Tahltan territory.

Tahltan Central Government (TCG) President Chad Norman Day said: "When our Nation shows support for a project, we want it to be a true partnership. This investment backs up the promises made in our co-management agreement with Red Chris and Imperials Metals. It means we are directly involved in a major project that affects our economy and the day-to-day lives of so many Tahltan people."

The new investment is part of a round of 'convertible debenture' financing by Imperial Metals to maintain and grow the company business.

Convertible debentures are a type of private investment. They can either be converted into shares or cashed-in at the price paid plus a set interest rate.

Inspiring Young Tahltans

Jeremy Riva-Cambrin

My name is Jeremy Riva-Cambrin and I belong to the Wolf Clan. My grandfather was John Creyke. My Great Aunt is Grace Williams. I currently live in Toronto, Ontario. I'm a medical doctor in psychiatry at Toronto Western Hospital. I just turned 32 years old.

I completed my Bachelor of Science and then my medical degree at the University of Alberta. I'm currently completing my last year of residency at the University of Toronto, so that would make the total number of years in post-secondary school 13!

I have learned so many invaluable skills in medicine, such as being an effective communicator, having empathy for even the most challenging patients, and learning how to be assertive for what I believe in. It has been a long and challenging road but I feel some of the most difficult experiences you have in your life are the most rewarding as well.

I think one of the biggest obstacles to pursuing my studies was not knowing what to expect or even what opportunities one can create for yourself through higher education. Another was overcoming racism within the medical apparatus and how to deal with my own reaction to it in a productive way. It becomes tricky in medicine because there is a well-established hierarchy, so you have to make sure you confront your own struggles with racism through the appropriate channels.

My advice to other Tahltan members who want to pursue higher education is to figure out what you enjoy and try to put yourself in opportunities that will expose you to different experiences. It's pretty easy now with the Internet to research even the most exotic careers. Try to connect with mentors or people in the field you are interested in and ask them about their own journey.

Ta'une (Kelly) Edzerza-Bapty

I am the youngest grand-daughter of Agouta (George) Edzerza and Nithteya (Grace) Edzerza and the youngest daughter of their youngest daughter Bev. I am a member of the Etzenlee Clan, and a descendant of Etheny through my grandparents. I am an intern architect at the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, and completing part of my internship with Kobayashi & Zedda Architects, a Whitehorse based firm that practices multiple types of building and has completed many successful First Nations projects.

I attained a Master of Architecture Degree from the School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture at UBC, a Bachelor of Design from the Univesity of Alberta, and a Diploma in Architectural Technology from BCIT. I utilize both my architectural and design degrees plus I have my own creative practice and design company Studio AZZIZA (www.azziza.ca). My architectural studies looked at sustainable development in watersheds, healthy housing, cultural institutions, and commercial and civic spaces, while implementing principles of sustainable architecture, land based building, and alternative energy into indigenous planning. My research focused on cultural stewardship and community planning in First Nations along the Pacific Rim through Nordic Indigenous communities.

Formal education was not an easy route for me to follow, I had a hard time sitting still and having to focus for extended lengths of time, and pursue projects at such detail often fighting the sense of control and the hierarchies of 'written knowledge'. It was both financially and emotionally challenging living in the city so far away from family and support networks, however, after completing my university education, I am appreciative of the opportunities and perspectives it has provided.

Jeremy's hobbies and gradtitude

I recently took up scuba diving which has been incredibly rewarding, I saw three sharks and a turtle the last time I dove.

I try to stay active and exercise regularly as well. In addition, I love to travel, play soccer and read on a regular basis.

I would like to thank my parents and family who supported me throughout my endeavours and of course my grade four teacher Ms. Hess!

Kelly's advice to other Tahltan members

I encourage young Tahltans to pursue their passions, and explore the potential of their life paths through advanced education. The doors and perspectives it opens is well worth the work. We are a part of a shifting workforce in which extensive computer based learning and working, coupled with the land based knowledge is an amazing asset and skill set. Our Indigenous voices and perspectives are important for people to hear and understand. Your education is yours to help you find your voice and passion and communicate it.

Healthy Active Tahltans

Tahltan Central Governmenet would like to thank the following sponsors, whose generous financial contributions made this meaningful initiative possible. Meduh!

Bill & Bernice Hesse

Canada Rockies International Investment Group

All Day Logistics Ltd

Iskut

Dease Lake

Telegraph Creek

The HATs initiative, introduced last year, is part of President Chad Norman Day's commitment to establishing community events in Tahltan Territory that aim to encourage and inspire the Tahltan Nation, particularly the youth, to live healthier lives through better nutrition and fitness. This year's events took place on October 19, 22 and 23 in Telegraph Creek, Dease Lake and Iskut.

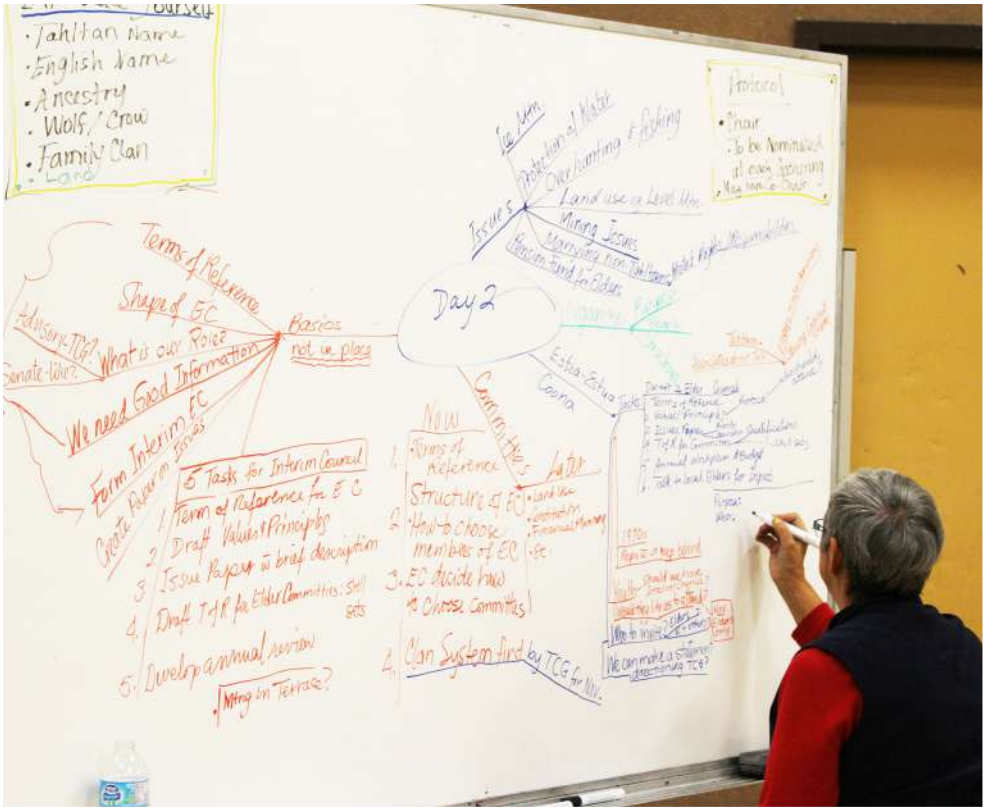
During each event, the TCG staff handed out t-shirts to everyone in attendance and had the communities gather in the local gymnasiums. Thereafter, Chad explained the symbolism behind the HATs t-shirts and welcomed the children to talk about their own experiences with hunting, fishing, snowshoeing and eating nutritious meats and fruits from the area. In addition, the kids shared stories about their favorite sports and activities before Chad told his own story about his love for basketball. The President ended the presentation by displaying his favorite basketball moves and reminded the children that practice and patience are the keys to success in sports and school.

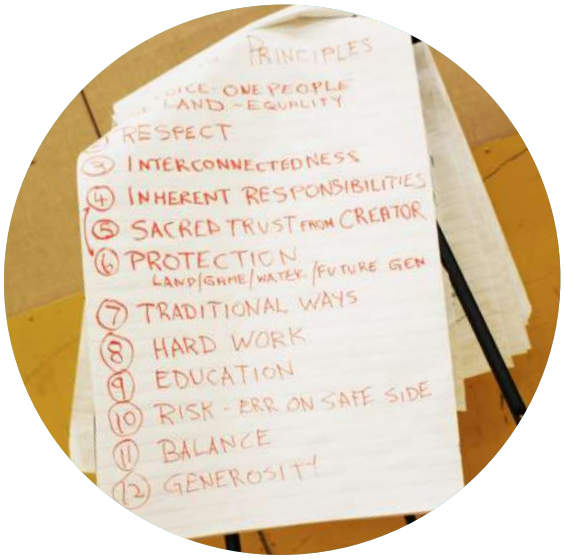
The TCG hired local caterers in each community and provided a healthy lunch for everyone in attendance. After lunch the participants gathered for group photos and eventually set off on a community walk/hike together. In Telegraph Creek participants hiked down to the Riversong Lodge and all the way back up the hill. The Dease Lake school and community members walked to the edge of Dease Lake and back. And in Iskut the children and local members walked from one end of the community to the other before eventually returning to the school. The TCG was thrilled to see approximately 300 children and community members participate. Each event saw participants trek two to three kilometers – what a great workout!

Upon returning to the school, the children were eager to continue playing sports in the gym. The TCG staff organized some basketball games and got involved with other activities as well. Following the events, President Chad Norman Day said the following:

"These events were a huge success and we are definitely coming back to hang out with the children again in the winter time for similar events. Playing sports was such a key part of my life and I hope we can continue to inspire our local kids to get involved with fitness – I would love to lead some basketball camps someday. Meduh to all of the HATs sponsors, the school staff, the TCG staff and to all the community members that participated and made these events so special for us and the kids. Let's do it again soon!"

Elders Council Gathering





Drawing on the Knowledge of our Elders

Tahltan Elders have a wealth of valuable knowledge about Tahltan culture, history and land-use that is critical to draw upon to retain the connection to our past, maintain our traditions, plan for our future and to assert our collective title and rights. To ensure we capture this knowledge and involve them in decision-making, the TCG is determined to work with our Elders to create a functional Tahltan Elders Council.

To establish the council, we have engaged Tahltan Elders to provide their input into how it will be structured and fit within the decision-making frameworks within the TCG. We originally kicked off discussion during the TCG's Annual General Assembly in July, and the second gathering was held on September 26 and 27 in Dease Lake.

During the second gathering, our executive team joined approximately 50 Elders and the following issues were discussed:

- Improving communication between TCG and all our Elders, regardless of where they live
- Establishing a council where all Tahltan Elders can make collective decisions as a united voice
- Ensuring Tahltan Elders are more included in the decision-making process within the TCG
- Designing internal protocols and processes for the Elders Council meetings and initiatives
- Creating processes to attain knowledge from Tahltan Elders (e.g. committees for land-use, genealogy, cultural protocols etc.)
- Discussing priorities and land protection

By the end of the two-day gathering, the Elders in attendance agreed that a further meeting would be held during late November of 2015 in Terrace. An urban location was chosen to ensure more Tahltan elders have an opportunity to be involved in this important work. In addition, the Elders created a working group that has been tasked with putting together a draft mandate and policies for the council. The goal is to fully functionalize the Tahltan Elders Council by the summer of 2016. The draft mandate and policies are currently being circulated amongst Tahltan Elders to ensure they have widespread input and support before their next meeting in late November.

We value the contributions of all the Elders who participated. The next meeting will take place on November 28 and 29 in Terrace. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ramona Quock at the TCG office 1-855-TAHLTAN (824-5826).

Youth Council Gathering

Engaging Tahltan Youth to Shape Our Future

Tahltan youth are the future of our Nation. They have a passion, perspective and drive we need to foster. We must involve our youth in decision-making, governance and political issues, as well as help them understand Tahltan title and rights to strengthen their identity. We also need to ensure we transfer knowledge about Tahltan culture, history and land-use to our future generations. So TCG is working with our youth to create the Tahltan Youth Council.

To create the council, we have been engaging youth to share their thoughts on how it should be structured. The consultation efforts thus far have taken place over social media (the Facebook Group is under "Tahltan Youth Council") and we also held our first youth gathering in Terrace on October 24 and 25 of this year.

Our executive team joined about twenty youth from the urban and local Tahltan communities and we collectively discussed a vision, mandates and principles for the youth council. Furthermore, the following goals were discussed:

- Improving communication between TCG and all our Tahltan youth
- Providing a platform where Tahltan youth can make collective decisions and create priorities as a united voice
- Ensuring Tahltan youth are more included in the decision-making process within the TCG
- Designing internal protocols and processes for the youth council meetings and initiatives
- Focusing on mentorship to ensure Tahltan youth begin to understand Tahltan governance and issues

The youth meetings in Terrace were very insightful and productive. Many Tahltan youth are eager to put their energy, education and passion to good use for their people. Several youth shared their desires to contribute to the Tahltan Nation on issues relating to education, health, hunting and fishing, land-use planning, community infrastructure and other community-based issues. We value the contributions of all the youth who participated and look forward to having more meetings in the near future.

Similar to the Elders Gathering, the Tahltan youth composed a working group that was tasked with drafting a Tahltan Youth Council Declaration, as well as terms of reference that would help establish an accountable framework and guidelines for the Tahltan Youth Council.

We will keep you posted on further Tahltan Youth event details on our website, Facebook page and through email. If you have any questions, please contact Ramona Quock at TCG: Ramona.quock@tahltan.org

THREAT Team Update

Red Chris

Our first independent Tahltan archaeology survey was completed this summer, as a result of the Red Chris IBA. We far exceeded our goals and anticipate much more Tahltan archaeology in the future. There have been significant finds in areas of our territory that have not had any archaeological survey in the past. Further archaeology is highly recommended.

An Environmental Management Act (EMA) Permit has been approved for a limited period to continue collecting information related to water quality, chemistry and monitoring for the site to allow for the discharge of effluent from the North Reclaim Dam to Quarry Creek. Recent water chemistry results are indicating a higher level of selenium which could mean water treatment is required.

Metal Mining Effluent Regulation (MMER): the federal government has moved forward with their process for Schedule 2 amendment, which is required for the tailings impoundment at Red Chris and use of Coyote Creek as part of the impoundment. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has not provided its authorization linked to the MMER and has requested further information from the company.

A Water Management Working Group has been established as a technical working group under the Red Chris Monitoring Committee to work cooperatively with Imperial Metals and Ministry of Environment around water management issues for the site. The work involves reviewing the existing water management plans and models and updating them to reflect the current monitoring results from operations.

A Wildlife Management Advisory Committee meeting is being planned on site to review recent work and plan for wildlife work this winter in the Project Area and Todagin Wildlife Management Area.

The Independent Tailings Review Board met this summer and provided recommendations, which will be implemented.

Bruce Jack

A BC EA certificate was issued in March 2015 and Canadian EA certificate has been approved. Mines Act and Environmental Management Act permits have been received. THREAT provided comments on the Economic and Social Effects Management Plan (ESEMP) and the Aboriginal Consultation Plan (ACP).

Kerr Sulphurets Mitchell

The Federal and Provincial governments granted an EA Certificate and most of the permits needed for initial tunnel portal, road and transmission line construction. Seabridge Gold does not yet have a partner to construct the mine.

Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations (FLNRO) and Seabridge have re-started discussions with respect to site-specific water quality guidelines for Treaty and Teigan Creeks. THREAT will be involved with the working group in developing these.

Seabridge Gold has had some interest from potential partners in the KSM mine. To encourage interest, Seabridge will be seeking new permits and amendments:

- Amended mine exploration to allow for a tunnel at the Kerr site on a decline for 2200 metres. This is to determine the extent of the Deep Kerr Pit. The zone is too deep for surface drilling.
- Water license to divert surface water around this tunnel.
- Environmental Management Permit for water treatment for the tunnel.

Groundhog

This project is seeking permits to allow the mining of a bulk sample from the deposit. THREAT is involved in a Mine Development Review Committee and working groups on access, water quality and environmental matters. THREAT will be resubmitting a work plan and budget to Atrum Coal for our services to review the applications.

Arctos

We are working with the Ministry of FLNRO to manage the last of the permits held by Arctos (reclamation of the road and mine site). This has involved site visits, review of Arctos' Reclamation Plan and drafting recommendations.

A tour of the road and discussion regarding the SUP for the Klappan road occurred this summer.

Arctos is currently on site commencing the reclamation plan. Iskut and THREAT have been in communication with the company and BC for a site visit while the program is ongoing.

Silvertip

JDS Mining's Mines Act Permit has been approved and construction is planned for this year.

BC Hydro

BC Hydro has provided notice it will be installing reclosers on distribution lines in Tahltan Territory. THREAT will review locations and provide comment.

BC Hydro is completing preliminary studies on its intended location for the proposed KSM substation near the Northwest Transmisson Line (NTL) right-of-way. THREAT has provided comments and completed a site visit.

THREAT performed a site visit in August to review the NTL and Iskut Extension, and a report is in development. Findings include:

NTL:

- KSM substation site is well-suited from a environmental perspective; but it is in an area with high archaeological potential
- NTL roads are in good shape overall. Some recommendations are forthcoming with respect to drainage/water bars
- Concerns with non-native plant species were noted

Iskut Extension:

- Need for mitigations dealing with excessive slash at stream crossings.
- Some minor reclamation work is required.

The NTL towers inspection demonstrates the need for further archaeological survey post-disturbance on the majority of the towers on the 106 km line. Archaeological assessment of high, medium or low potential was complete and the recommendation is to complete a full post-disturbance survey with or by THREAT. Most of the towers require systematic archaeology survey; this will require negotiations with BC Hydro and also Imperial Metals.

AltaGas

Environmental performance committee meetings will occur this fall. Ramping rates are the most important issue to review and discuss at the EPC.

McLymont tunnel flooding is anticipated in September.

THREAT reviewed a request from AltaGas to increase Power Generation Capacity in amendment to the Forrest Kerr EA certificate.

Mineral Exploration

THREAT provided a summary of activities in the Sheslay area to the leadership.

Referrals have been updated into the referrals database and Shared Engagement Records have been completed. Currently, active applications are low for mineral exploration.

THREAT reviewed permit applications for proposed jade activities and has raised concerns regarding the level of activities in Tahltan Territory. Further discussion needs to take place with the leadership regarding a strategy to deal with this activity. THREAT has participated in archaeological field work at the Spectrum project.

Wildlife

Tahltan Leadership signed a letter with Leadership from Tlingit and Kaska to the Minister of FLNRO on wildlife issues.

The 3-Nations and BC struck a technical working group that includes Heather Hawkins, Shana Dennis, Jodi Payne and Norm MacLean.

Short term outcomes included funding for game guardians for monitoring this fall, game checks with BC in late September and a draft regulation package to be reviewed with BC through the shared decision making agreement this fall.

Medium term outcomes included a commitment to continue working on management issues over the winter that do not fall under regulations, and a meeting in Dease Lake in November to review progress of the group and next steps.

Longer term work includes a 3 Nation wildlife region with capacity, and a multi-year program for surveys, community engagement and capacity. Moose surveys are planned for Klappan and a resurvey of the Jade/Boulder Road this winter.

Forestry

Cassiar Forest Corp

In 2014, the Cassiar Forest Corp was approved for an amendment to their operating area that includes access to timber north of Bob Quinn/Devils Lake. This includes areas along Highway 37 north to Kinaskan Lake and west in the Willow Creek area.

The company has contacted TCG regarding exploring potential blocks to meet their remaining volume tied to their licence, which expires in 2017. It is in their interest to remove blocks that are contentious. Since most of the proposed blocks are in the Willow Creek and Kinaskan Lake areas, a meeting occurred with the Iskut Band Council on September 17 to discuss the request and a community meeting is being planned.

The company has shown in the past where they have been open to modify block boundaries, drop blocks and use practices that retain more structure and tree patches than required under current legislation.

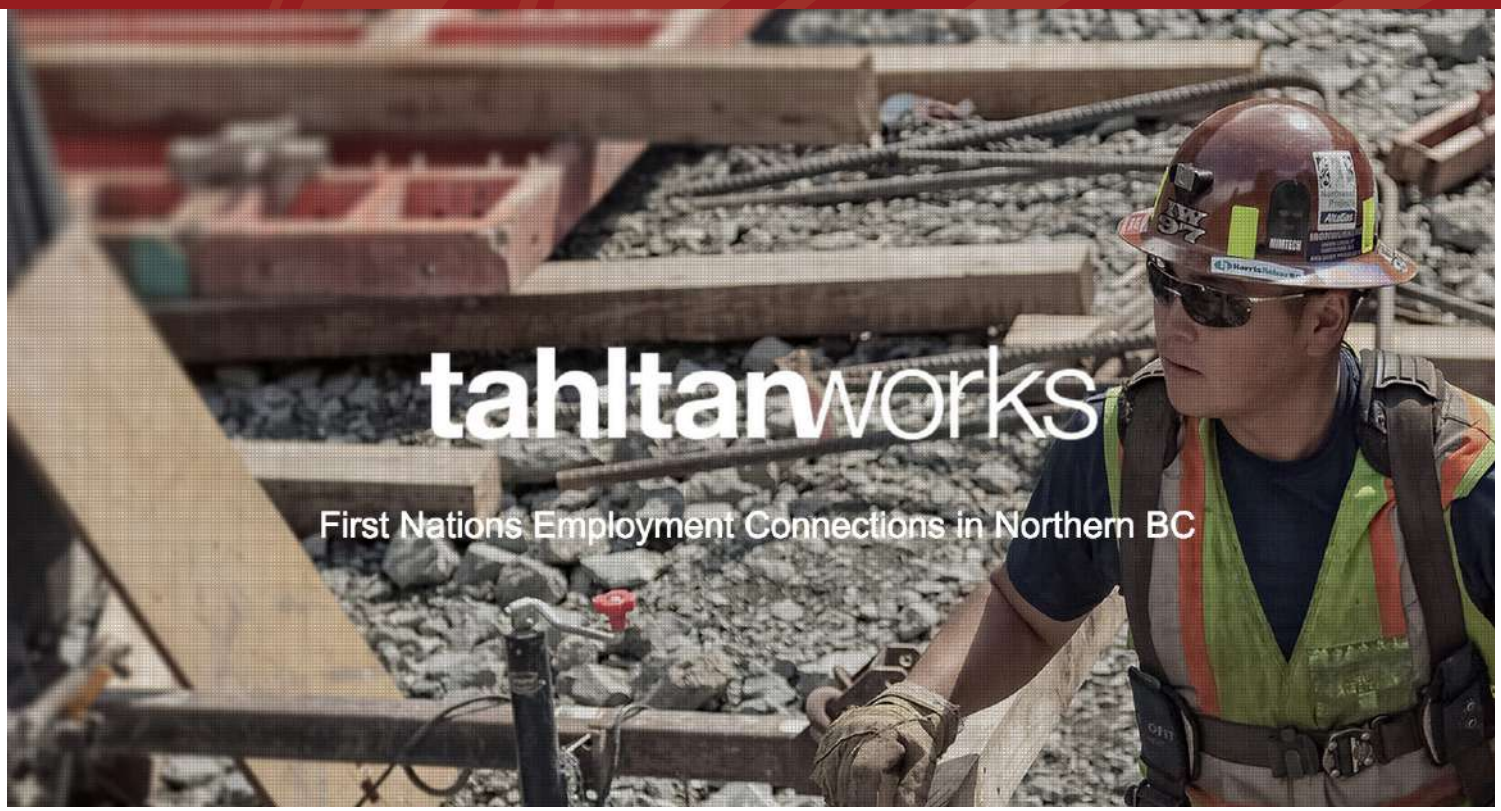
Some blocks already proposed for 2015 have been provided for review but cutting permits have not been applied for yet. Field work on the blocks is occurring now to determine timber harvesting prescriptions to be submitted with cutting permits applications.

Canadian Resurgence Development

Operates south of CFC with most of its operations outside of the territory; however some of its operating area is within the territory such as Oweegee Creek and south.

Some cutting permits have been submitted, but most of them have been distributed along existing access or disturbance such as transmission right of ways.

Fall at a Glance



"TahltanWorks" - The Employment Bridge for the Tahltan

What is TahltanWorks?

The TahltanWorks employment and training plan is an initiative of the Socio-Cultural Working Group. It is the result of collaboration among Tahltans, industry, education providers and government. The goal is to ensure Tahltans are prepared to take advantage of employment and business opportunities created by development in our territory.

Responsibilities of the TahltanWorks director

Adrian Carlick, the new director of TahltanWorks will be responsible for overseeing the ongoing development and implementation of a Tahltan labour market strategy, as well as relationship building and coordination with government, potential employers, education bodies and other service providers to identify and create relevant opportunities for skills development among Tahltans.

He will also oversee the continual development and maintenance of the TahltanWorks website and manage the team to ensure information, including job postings and employee experience, is maintained, accurate and distributed.

A major responsibility will be ongoing consultation with our people to understand employment and training needs, which will evolve with the changing environment.

This will include providing support and guidance to connect Tahltan people with employment and training opportunities in the region, and finding ways to seek out and maintain a collection of resources to support this initiative.

You can learn more about TahltanWorks and register as a Tahltan member on the website: www.tahltanworks.ca

Tahltan Language Revitalization Program

Language Nests

Iskut

On May 20, 2015, Dzimēs Chō T'oh (Swainson Thrush's Nest) – Iskut Language Nest celebrated its one-year anniversary.

This would not have been possible without the support of the following individuals and organizations: Regina Louie, Angela Dennis, Mary Quock, Erma Bourquin, parents of children in the language nest, community members, First Peoples' Cultural Council, Tahltan Socio-Cultural Working Group, Iskut Band Council, Iskut Valley Health Services, Iskut Valley Headstart Program, Klappan School, Dr. Kathryn Michel and the Chief Atahm School Language Nest.

Dease Lake

On Friday September 18, 2015, the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia visited K'aṣba'e T'oh (Ptarmigan's Nest) – the Dease Lake Language Nest.

Patrick Etzerza, Fluent Speaker in K'aṣba'e T'oh, said this about the Lieutenant Governor's visit: "It was great for the Lieutenant Governor to see the kids interacting with us in the language. When we talked to the children, they reacted quickly showing how much they understand the language. They were counting in the language too. These are little ones who are just learning to speak English and they could understand Tāłtān and say words in Tāłtān. The best part was near the end when they were leaving and Kylie waved to them and said Nanūst'ī."

In October, Judy Thompson spoke to Her Honour about her visit to the nest in Dease Lake. The Lieutenant Governor said that she was so impressed and encouraged to hear young children speaking the Tāłtān language.

She felt that learning a language at a young age in an immersion setting like that of the language nest is one of the best ways to become fluent in a language. At the end of her visit, the Governor General presented a gift of books to Odelia Dennis for the language nest.

Telegraph Creek

The Tahltan Band has received funding from the Vancouver Foundation to open a language nest in Telegraph Creek. Newly hired Language Nest Coordinator, Melva Quock, is working closely with Shana Dennis, Judy Thompson, Odelia Dennis, and Patricia Louie to open the nest sometime this fall.

Post Secondary Opportunities

The University of Victoria's Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization will be starting in Dease Lake in January 2016. It will provide students an opportunity to increase and/or build on their Tāłtān language proficiency. Odelia Dennis and Angela Dennis will be teaching IED 159 – Indigenous Language I in the first semester. Lynda Edzerza has been hired as the Tahltan Language Community Coordinator to liaise with the university, students, fluent speakers, and community members. If you are interested in registering for the program, please contact Lynda at ledzerza.is@gmail.com

Sing an Honour Song for the Genealogy Researchers

With the restructuring of the Genealogy Project, we want to thank the first team that worked on this project. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following dedicated genealogy researchers:

Riannon Ball	Tanya Ball	Gwen Carlick	Tiny Camilli
Jeanie Dendys	Anna Delaronde	Debra Dennis	Tamara Dennis
Charlene Ducharme	Shannon Frank	Melina Hole	Millie Johnstone
Georgianna Low	Carmen McPhee	Teneal Nole	Jodi Payne
Amanda Quash	Sheila Quash	Ramona Quock	Roxanne Quock
Lena Sharko	Laurin Sutherland	Alicia Vance	Tania Vance

In January 2011, a team of genealogy researchers was hired to create a list of Tahltans eligible to vote in our first ratification vote for the Northwest Transmission Line. By the time of voting in April of that year, the total of voters was a robust 1715 — with proof they were eligible to vote. As of October 2015, the total number of living Tahltans identified and documented is about 3000.

This team phoned Tahltans, visited them at their homes, took information at meetings, and spread the word of this project through Facebook. One of the important benefits of their work was the goodwill resulting from their contact with Tahltans. They were told over and over it was the first time anyone from TCG had ever contacted them personally, and they liked this contact.

The other team member who has been of great importance to the creation of the voter list was the data manager, Kathryn Owen. She was involved in testing the database as it was being created. Kathryn was the person responsible for entering names and information into the Tahltan Member Database. She also managed and maintained this database. When we were overrun with the number of forms to be entered, we hired a small team to help with data entry. She assisted in training and supervising this group and also took the initiative in suggesting that we enter names of the ancient ones from sources such as Palgraves' Journal.

For creating the voter list and continuing the Tahltan census, the importance of all members of the genealogy team is beyond the value of gold. It has been a pleasure to work with this group, in what was truly a team effort.

Submitted by Louise Framst, former Genealogy Coordinator

TCG would also like to express special thanks to our former Genealogy key staff for their valuable work and dedication to the Tahltan Nation - Meduh for all your hard work over the years.

SHAWNA BENOIT
Genealogist

LOUISE FRAMST
Genealogy Coordinator

LYNDA EDZERZA
Genealogy Assistant

Condolences

Loveman Nole

Loveman was born on September 17, 1930 in Telegraph Creek to Esther and Bell Nole. He was the third child of sixteen children. He was happily married to Sarah Tashoots for 63 years. Throughout his life Loveman was known as a provider to his family and for sharing his successful hunts with everyone he could. Loveman was passionate about the Tahltan language and culture. Being able to pass on his knowledge in a film production "Dah-tsiye Kehke: Our Grandfather's Footprints" by his grandsons Michael and Ramsay Bourquin was an important legacy he cherished. It is with great honor that we celebrate the life of a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, language instructor, hunter, trapper, comedian and elder.

May Jakesta

May was born on May 27, 1923 at Nahlin River, BC and lived until the impressive age of 92. May was born and raised on Tahltan land. She was the youngest daughter of Johnny Carlick Sincoots. May was a happy-go-lucky person and a loving grandma, mom, auntie and great-auntie to many. May had a kind heart and soul; she was renowned for helping out many people who struggled on the streets of Prince George. She was a free spirit and loved to be on the go all the time. She never outgrew her nomadic roots. May was predeceased by her children Warren, Wally, Jean, Lorna, Mary-Anne, Darlene and Mougie. She has left behind Peter, Ernie, Harry, Sherry and Beverly. May passed away in Prince George. Her final resting place is near her children in Dawson Creek.

Eddie Davidson

It is with tremendous sadness that we mourn the loss of this bright young Tahltan, well known to many in the Dease Lake community as "Little Eddie". He came into this community like a little tornado, finally finding his place amongst our teenagers and the community. When people were around him he would say "hi" with a big smile on his face and then ask if anyone needed help with anything. Sometimes it is difficult to understand why we lose people before their time, but we must believe people come and go in our lives for a reason. Rest in peace Little Eddie. Your loss has affected everyone whether they knew you directly or not. We send lots of love to Eddie's friends and family.

Roma Joyce Walker

Roma Joyce Walker (Tibbett) was born on January 3, 1965 in the “old” hospital located behind the Gateway, to Jessie Porter (Tibbett) and Fred McMillan, and brother Melvin. Her loved ones recall Roma was a chubby little baby with jet black hair who was sometimes quiet growing up, and who grew into the wonderful, bubbly, cool, strong-spirited and funny person we all knew. There was never a dull moment around her. Roma was a hard worker. She spent over 25 years working with the Kaska Nation in many careers – secretary, executive director, negotiator and councillor. She met her husband, Chuck Walker, in a food court in Vancouver. Chuck and Roma had two wonderful children – Blayde and Charlayne. Sadly, Roma was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011 and lost the war on September 29th, and passed away surrounded by loved ones. Roma was a warm, generous and compassionate woman and will be greatly missed.

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 are not yet a fan of 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.