

# TAAKU



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT  
First Nation



Haad  
Kusteeyi

OUR way OF LIFE

## T'aakú Téix'i The Heart of the Taku

The aim of this Newsletter is to showcase the amazing work of our community. We hope you enjoy this edition of the TRTFN Taaku Newsletter. With each issue we invite you, our community members, to share your feedback, offer ideas and content you wish to see, and share this publication with your family and friends. Our goal is to share positive stories, learn about each other and bring together a sense of connection.

Please contact our communications manager Rebecca Law with your ideas and feedback via email at [communication.mgr@trtfn.gov.ca](mailto:communication.mgr@trtfn.gov.ca)

Please visit our website at [www.trtfn.com](http://www.trtfn.com) for more information about TRTFN.

Download this issue and other issues to read and share virtually at [www.taaku.online](http://www.taaku.online)

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[www.taaku.online](http://www.taaku.online)

Cover: Pamela Jim wearing her mother's (Vivian Mahoney) blanket.

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# Jinik

## Charmaine Thom

### TRTFN SPOKESPERSON

I acknowledge our leaders, elders, youth, administration, and staff for the wonderful work being done for our community during the past season. We feel the spring approaching on our territory. The sleeping animals are stirring, and the thawing of the land and the water is happening under us. We listen to the melting of the snow, the rain as it falls at night. We hear the symphony of millions of candling ice tinkling on the lake. The world is waking up under the warmth of the sun. And every day is a gift from the Creator.

Our Nation is so proud of our Clan leaders Vernon Williams and James Williams who represented the Taku River Tlingit's. They chose to take the long journey to Rome along with delegations from other Nations to meet with Pope Francis in Vatican City. This was part of broad efforts to seek justice for genocide in Catholic-run residential institutions, including seeking an apology to be delivered in Canada.

We welcomed them home with the singing and drums, ceremony, and feasting.

We are preparing for two JCM's in May. This will serve to report on the work that has been done and bring you important information that will help guide proposed projects for the months ahead. We hope you all can attend virtually or in person at any of these events.

Our Leadership remains strong and dedicated to bringing transparency and equality of services to our community members. We are all paddling this canoe together and headed in the direction of wellness and prosperity for all our citizens.

We persevere with the courage of our Ancestors and the wisdom of our Elders. Embracing Haa Kusteeyí (Our Way of Life), our culture, language & traditional laws, we journey forward into a new season of hope and healing.

Gunalchéesh,





# Awakening

by Charles Pugh  
TRTFN CAO

Spring is a time of rebirth in nature and in all living systems. Our relatives, the bears, squirrel's, insects, and other living creatures have either been in hibernation or in a period of busy activity to survive against the difficult elements of the cold harsh months, now they venture forth.

This winter has been a time of reflection, a season of recovery and preparation, a time to value and treasure warmth. We awaken. Awakening sometimes means that you are affected by the feelings of loss and loneliness that happened during the winter months. With spring comes the re-birthing of emotions, energy, and life. This recycled energy can bring up feelings of joy and excitement, at times it can show up negatively and we may lash out at the people that we love.

So much life unfolds all around us, the world pregnant with painful transitioning

and yearning to experience life and all it has to offer us.

This is a time to look after each other and give support where needed. It's a time to sometimes approach those that we may have had fallings out with and try to work things out and come to new understandings. This special time is designed to build unity together with the natural and living eco systems around us. This connection brings hope and healing to us all.

We look to the land for its budding new life, beauty, and energy that it holds for us, its medicine and nourishment. We look to our elders for their wisdom, strength, and guidance. And we care for our babies, our children and ourselves to give them that strength, love and nurturing we need in this beautiful time.

Gunalchéesh





WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY

DAMIEN  
JACKIE JUDE  
WILLIAMS

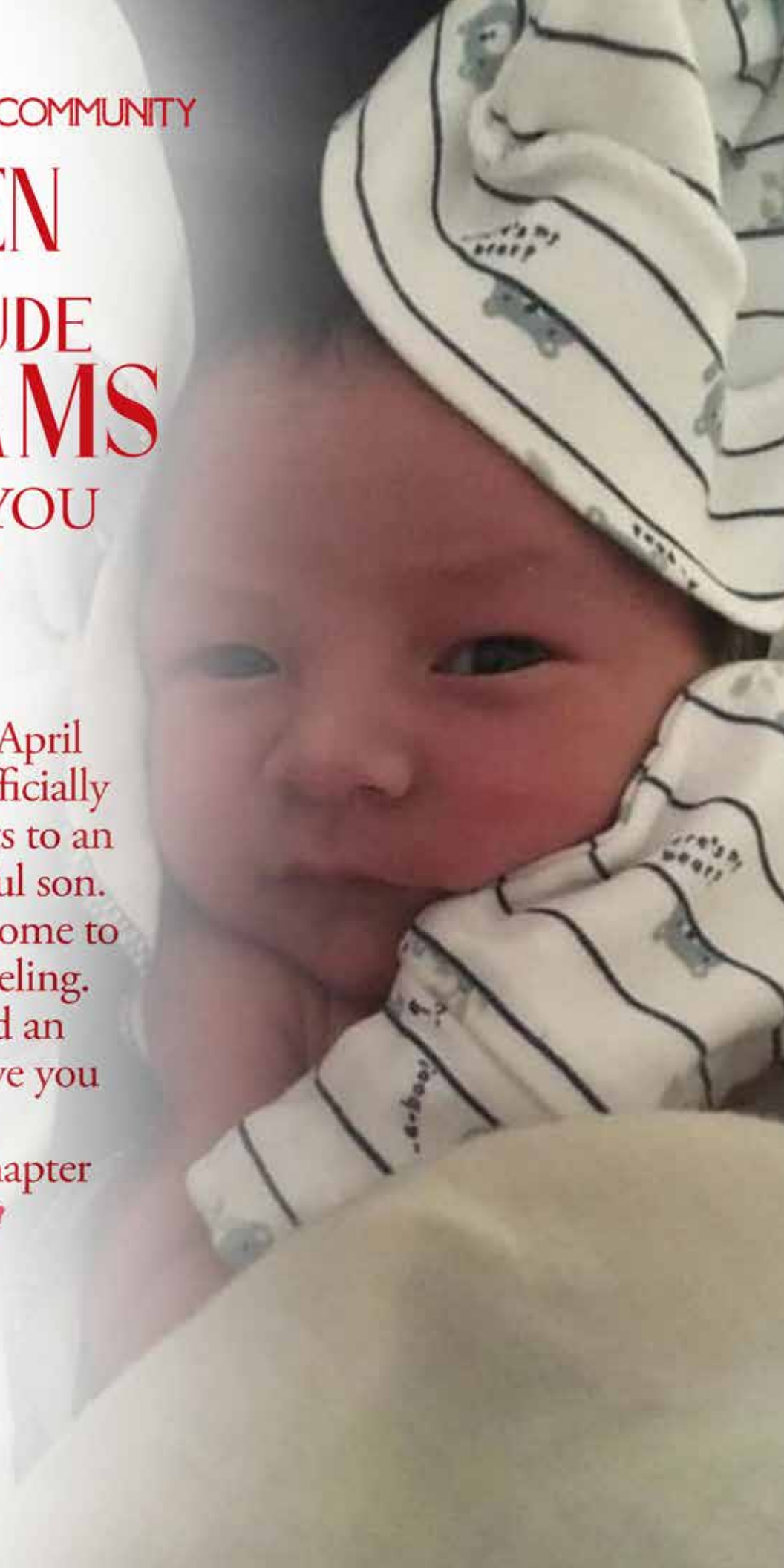
WE LOVE YOU  
BABY!

At 9:01 AM on April  
26th, 2022, we officially  
became the parents to an  
absolutely beautiful son.  
Words can't even come to  
mind how I'm feeling.

Shirley Jack did an  
amazing job, I love you  
so much.

And so, a new chapter  
begins ❤️💞

Steve Williams







# Land, Water & Air

## Rodger Thorlakson TRTFN Lands & Resources Manager

Greetings to everyone from the lands and resources department. As a Taku River Tlingit Citizen I hold our lands and resources in the highest regard.

It is an honour to be in the role of lands manager, work that I enjoy every day. I feel blessed to work with a team that is experienced, dedicated, and capable in all the areas they are responsible for.

There are many exciting projects that we are working on to protect, enhance, and assist the land, air, water, resources, wildlife, and fish in our traditional territory.

Our department newsletters are very detailed and have much to report on all our projects. Please scan the QR Code below to open links to view or download our current lands & fisheries newsletter or past issues.

Our staff has an open-door policy, and is always willing to answer any questions that you might have. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

<https://trtfn.com/departments/lands>





# Journey To Revitalize its Indigenous Laws

Written by Gavin Smith

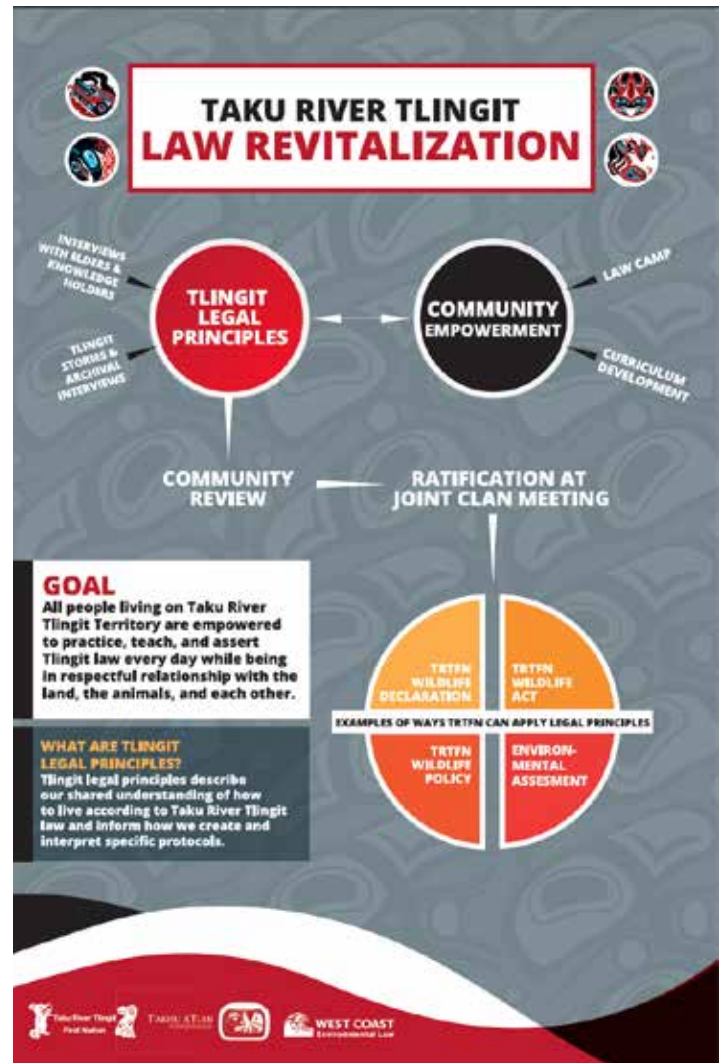
Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRT) has produced a short video sharing some of the work it has been doing over the past five years through its RELAW project. RELAW – which stands for Revitalizing Indigenous Laws for Land, Air and Water – is a program through which Indigenous nations work to revitalize, live and apply their own Indigenous laws, with legal support and co-learning opportunities offered by West Coast Environmental Law. The most recent RELAW update described TRT's work this way:

Taku River Tlingit First Nation's vision for revitalizing Taku River Tlingit law has continued to grow and deepen since the Nation began its RELAW project in 2017, based in the knowledge that Taku River Tlingit law is living law that can and should be taught, learned and used every day. Recognizing that revitalizing Indigenous law is not just a legal project but also a healing journey, Taku River Tlingit First Nation is conducting this work in a way that puts the needs of the community first and ensures that the teachings of Tlingit people are followed each step of the way. Reflecting on the release of TRT's video, Charmaine Thom, TRT's Spokesperson elected under the TRT Constitution, offered the following thoughts about the ongoing work to live and apply Tlingit laws:

*The RELAW program is a key piece of revitalizing Indigenous Law. First Nation Law exists and upholds our Tlingit way of life, in a way that will support our environment. It is the foundation of who we are as Tlingit people. Enacting our own laws serves to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we live on. Our laws are an extra layer of protection that we can provide to our people that the current federal and provincial Government cannot.*

*Federal and provincial government has enacted their own laws to try to achieve the results that First Nations laws have implemented for generations, but they can't replicate it, because it's not theirs, it's not their way of life. Our Laws have helped our land survive. Here is a good example of this: Our Tlingit people always gave our land the opportunity to breathe and to revive itself, so we would always move from one village to another to allow that re-growth to happen, and to allow the land to replenish itself. That was our way of taking care of the land. That doesn't exist in colonial law.*

Revitalizing those pieces of traditional law that make up who we are as Tlingit people is a way to help our land breathe. TRT's video reflects, in a powerful way, the vision and spirit of the work that TRT people are advancing to revitalize their law and help their land breathe.





# Governance

by Louise Gordon Manager

So much has been accomplished in the past and present. We continue to celebrate the amazing work we have done and ensure we maximize our short- and long-term interests as mandated by our community. Our Lead Negotiator is very instrumental in getting our Nation Rebuilding project off the ground, working strategically with the Teslin Tlingit Council and Carcross Tagish First Nation on rebuilding the Tlingit Nation. Everything we all accomplish big and small, leads us to a place of collective strength and lasting healing.

This year we journey at last to the Juneau, Alaska Celebration. Our dance team is practicing, and our hearts are ready to celebrate with our Tlingit family.

It is truly an honor to continue to work for my Taku River Tlingit First Nation as Governance Manager as we move forward on our road to Self-Government.



Each Tlingit is responsible for protecting, preserving, and promoting Tlingit land, laws, culture and spirituality.

TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION CONSTITUTION ACT, 1993



# Táaku Kwan Dancers

This dance group started in 2006 and under the direction of Elder Mary Anderson (Saadeyi) and with the help of Yaandekin Yeil (Wayne Carlick) started the children's dance group Dikee Aank áawu Y átx'i (Children of the Creator dancers).

This inspired the parents to join the children and it became the Táaku Kwan Dancers. We have performed at the Olympic Games 2010 and the Adäka Arts Festival in Whitehorse Yukon, the Atlin Arts and Music Festival in Atlin BC. The Arctic Winter Games, the Canada Winter Games and many other cultural events.

We will be performing in Juneau Alaska for the 2022 Celebration in June (9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>).

Every Sunday from 1pm - 3 pm at the Atlin School Gymnasium we practice. You are welcome to attend.

**Email: [wayne.carlick@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.carlick@gmail.com)  
or call 250-651-7449**

For more information.





# Latséeni Daakahídi

'House of Strength'

We honor the work that is done, and the spirit of the hands that choose to do such work.

The Latseeni Daakahidi department remains strong in the services it provides to the Nation. We are grateful for the work done by the previous manager Anne Campbell whose leaving left a void that needed to be filled urgently. I am honored to be acting manager of the Latseeni Daakahidi department as well as Health Safety and Emergency Preparedness Manager. I would like to thank Zoya Lewis and Donna Patrick for guiding me as I paddled the sometimes-rapid waters of this position these last 2 months. And to all our staff working diligently for our members.

The work of this department is to serve our citizens and community members. Assisting families and helping people to navigate complicated problems. Working always towards the health and well-being in our community. We will continue to listen and communicate effectively with you so as to advocate for your needs to be met in a timely and compassionate manner. Our staff are caring and willing to help when you need us. Please be kind with us when you enter our spaces, as we are also human and require compassion in executing these roles.

The Health Safety and Emergency department is working on providing the community with a safety plan to serve everyone should there be a need to evacuate the town in case of an emergency. Our biggest concern in this territory is Fire. We have identified many concerns that we will address and upgrade. For example: how do we alert everyone in an emergency. Especially in a town with no cell service.

Sounding an alarm is very important, a signal that will alert everyone in a timely manner. Our plan is to have a powerful Siren placed within the community to alert all that hear it of any emergency. Along with this alarm must come the creating of a plan. This requires community meetings designed to coordinating everyone on what is required of us all when that alarm sounds. Our policy is that no one gets left behind, and all are accounted for. To do this, we need roles and a mentality that we all walk home together. We prepare ahead of an emergency, and we look out for one another. This is the work we are doing for the nation.

This season and the seasons to come will bring newness, some challenging. However, with all new experiences come new opportunities to learn and grow.

I wish you all a happy spring and summer time.



**Daniel Kempling, NCSO, CRST**  
Health Safety and Emergency  
Preparedness Manager

## Gunalcheésh to our dedicated staff!







Our talented youth working with our youth worker Rebecca Law to create fun movies and music videos. We appreciate the Atlin School and its staff for providing a green room and making time for these projects,



## Taáku River Tlingit First Nation



© Wayne Carlick

# EVERY CHILD MATTERS

# CALENDAR of EVENTS At Gadaxit Yinaa Disi

Month before animals give birth

May 2022

Síndi	Tléix' Yagiye	Déix Yagiye	Nás'k Yagiye	Daax'oon Yagiye	Keijín Yagiye	Síndi K'atsk'u
<b>1</b> For Lingit language Class contact wayne.carlick@gmail.com or call 250-651-7449 <b>TFLC Afterschool Program 3:30-4:30</b> <b>(K-Grade4) Contact TFLC 250 651 7739</b> <b>Aikido Contact: Daniel Kemping 250</b> <b>651 7739 ext 300</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>AA Meetings</b> <b>Culture Center</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>HYDRO JCM</b> <b>8:45am - 4:30pm</b> <b>ADMIN BUILDING</b> <b>TUTAN HIT</b> <b>ZOOM</b>
<b>8</b>  <b>MOTHERS DAY</b> <b>DANCE GROUP PRACTICE</b> <b>1pm-3pm</b> <b>@ ATLIN SCHOOL GYM</b>	<b>9</b> <b>ELDERS LUNCH</b> <b>MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP</b> Mary Walsh Call 7695 ext 108 <b>TUTAN HIT DROP IN</b> <b>snacks/coffee</b>	<b>10</b> <b>AA Meetings</b> <b>Culture Center</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Culture Center</b> <b>9am - 4pm</b> <b>TRAUMA &amp; ADDICTION RECOVERY GROUP</b> Mary Walsh Call 7695 ext 108 <b>TUTAN HIT DROP IN</b>	<b>12</b> <b>HEALING TRAUMA</b> <b>12:30 - 1:30</b> Mary Walsh Call 7695 ext 108 <b>TUTAN HIT DROP IN</b> <b>snacks/coffee provided</b> <b>Lingit language Class</b> <b>9am-5pm</b> <b>@ Centre for Culture</b>	<b>13</b> <b>ELDERS MEETING</b> <b>1pm - 4pm</b> <b>TRTFN ADMIN BUILDING</b> <b>&amp; ZOOM</b> <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b>	<b>14</b> <b>JCM</b> <b>8:45am - 4:30pm</b> <b>ADMIN BUILDING</b> <b>TUTAN HIT</b> <b>ZOOM</b>
<b>15</b> <b>JCM</b> <b>8:45am - 4:30pm</b> <b>ADMIN BUILDING</b> <b>TUTAN HIT</b> <b>ZOOM</b>	<b>16</b> <b>ELDERS LUNCH</b> <b>After Lunch Activities at Drop in Center:</b> <b>Exercise or Games</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>AA Meetings</b> <b>Culture Center</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Culture Center</b> <b>9am - 4pm</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Lingit language Class</b> <b>9am-5pm</b> <b>@ Centre for Culture</b>	<b>20</b> <b>LATSEENI DAKAHIDI</b> <b>10am-3pm</b> <b>ATLIN REC CENTER</b> <b>Presentations by</b> Children of Taku Wayne Carlick Daniel Kemping Blood Ties Peter Kirby Rodger Thorlakson Donna Wolf <b>DOOR PRIZES</b>	<b>21</b> 
<b>22</b>  <b>DANCE GROUP PRACTICE</b> <b>1pm-3pm</b> <b>@ ATLIN SCHOOL GYM</b>	<b>23</b> <b>ELDERS LUNCH</b> <b>MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP</b> Mary Walsh Call 7695 ext 108 <b>TUTAN HIT DROP IN</b> <b>snacks/coffee</b>	<b>24</b> <b>AA Meetings</b> <b>Culture Center</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>25</b> <b>TRAUMA &amp; ADDICTION RECOVERY GROUP</b> Mary Walsh Call 7695 ext 108 <b>TUTAN HIT DROP IN</b> <b>Culture Center</b> <b>9am - 4pm</b>	<b>26</b> <b>BENZODIAZEPINES</b> <b>mixed with Fentanyl</b> <b>OVERDOSE AWARENESS</b> <b>12:30 - 1:30</b> Mary Walsh Call 7695 ext 108 <b>TUTAN HIT DROP IN</b> <b>snacks/coffee provided</b> <b>Lingit language Class</b> <b>9am-5pm</b> <b>@ Centre for Culture</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  <b>DANCE GROUP PRACTICE</b> <b>1pm-3pm</b> <b>@ ATLIN SCHOOL GYM</b>	<b>30</b> <b>ELDERS LUNCH</b> <b>After Lunch Activities at Drop in Center:</b> <b>Exercise or Games</b>	<b>31</b> 	<b>ATTENTION VAN PASSENGERS</b> To schedule a ride please call <b>250 651 7900</b> <b>ext 310 or 315</b> <b>8:30 am - 5:00</b> <b>Mon - Fri</b> <b>(Except Payday Friday's)</b> <b>PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE VAN DRIVER'S PERSONAL PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>SOCIAL ASSISTANCE</b> <b>By appointment only</b> Bring all necessary Documents to your appointments <b>250 651 7900</b> <b>ext 310</b> Purchase orders will not be issued if you do not bring receipt from previous PO's back.		



# CALENDAR of EVENTS At Gadaxit Disi

When animals give birth

June 2022

Síndi	Tléix' Yagiye	Déix Yagiye	Nás'k Yagiye	Daax'oon Yagiye	Keijín Yagiye	Síndi K'atsk'u
For Lingít language Class contact wayne.carlick@gmail.com or call 250-651-7449 TFLC Afterschool Program 3:30-4:30 (K-Grade4) Contact TFLC 250 651 7739 Aikido Contact: Daniel Kemping 250 651 7739 ext 300			1  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	2  Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	3  OFFICES CLOSED	4
5  DANCE GROUP PRACTICE 1pm-3pm @ ATLIN SCHOOL GYM	6  Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	7  AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	8  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	9	10	11  <b>CELEBRATION JUNEAU ALASKA</b>
12  Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	13  Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	14  AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	15  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	16  Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	17  OFFICES CLOSED  FATHER'S DAY	18 
19  Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	20  Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	21  AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm  SPRING BREAK	22  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	23  Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	24  MOVIES MEALS & MUSIC SUBSTANCE FREE EVENT Watch a movie! Enjoy a delicious meal 8-midnight GETTAK NII	25 
26 	27  Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	28  AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	29  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	30  Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	 <b>SUMMER HOLIDAYS BEGINS</b>	


This schedule subject to change. Keep your eyes and ears open about programming changes and additions

# CALENDAR of EVENTS

## Xaat Disi

Fish Moon

July 2022

Síndi	Tléix' Yagiyee	Déix Yagiyee	Nás'k Yagiyee	Daax'oon Yagiyee	Keijín Yagiyee	Síndi K'atsk'u
For Lingít language Class contact wayne.carlick@gmail.com or call 250-651-7449  TFLC Afterschool Program 3:30-4:30 (K-Grade4) Contact TFLC 250 651 7739  Aikido Contact: Daniel Kempling 250 651 7739 ext 300					1  OFFICES CLOSED	2
3 	4  Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	5  AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	6  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	7  Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	8  <b>ATTENTION VAN PASSENGERS</b>  To schedule a ride please call <b>250 651 7900 ext 310 or 315</b> 8:30 am - 5:00 Mon - Fri (Except Payday Friday's)  <b>PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE VAN DRIVER'S PERSONAL PHONE NUMBER</b>	9 
10 	11  Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	12  AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	13  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	14  Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	15  OFFICES CLOSED	16  <b>SOCIAL ASSISTANCE</b> By appointment only  Bring all necessary Documents to your appointments <b>250 651 7900 ext 310</b> Purchase orders will not be issued if you do not bring receipt from previous PO's back.
17 	18  Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	19  AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	20  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	21  Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	22 	23
24  31	25  Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	26  AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	27  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	28  Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	29  OFFICES CLOSED	30 

This schedule subject to change. Keep your eyes and ears open about programming changes and additions





# Family Tree

I know what it is like to be brought up with unconditional love. In my life that came from my Great Grandmother. Her name was Héenkát.han (Irene Scott/Johns), she was taken away from Atlin when she was 12 and sent to a residential school in Williams Lake. As many who were stolen from their homes, this was a traumatic experience for her, and it stole her Tlingit identity and language from her. My great grandma must have had a gift of foresight, because before she passed away, when I turned 9, she gifted me her button blanket and her Tlingit name Héenkát.han. The button blanket was made by Evelyn Jack way back in the day, they were first cousins, and called each other sisters. It is so very special to me.

I have always wanted to come to Atlin, to reconnect with the culture and people that my great grandmother came from. When I came of age, and decided that it was time, my grandfather came with me. It was like coming home.

The job I do for TRTFN is Citizenship, Vital Statistics, and Governance Records Coordinator deals quite a bit with genealogy. I love history and genealogy. I started doing my own personal genealogy in 2017, following and finding out about my family tree using online research and ancestry. Even as a kid I would be drawn to peoples' stories and linking history together.

Moving to Atlin has been a wonderful adventure, but difficult at times. I have struggled being of mixed heritage. My Tlingit bloodline can't be seen and at times my white skin triggers some people seeing me wrapped in my great grandmother's blanket. Finding love for everyone no matter what their journey or opinion and holding space for anyone that needs to express their pain and trauma are lessons I am learning all the time. We all want to come home, to belong and feel accepted. This job has taught me how true this is for us all.

I get calls most days from people who want to know about their family. One citizen called, she had never seen pictures of her mom, she wanted to know who her grandfather was, and I was able to locate pictures for her to get her that special piece of connection to her family here in Atlin. Being able to explain genealogy to people that call and knowing how it felt wanting to know who your ancestors are have helped me do this job well. The more you know of your history the more liberated you are.

I want to encourage citizens to call in and ask for what you need with regards to your family history. I will do my best to help locate and get you the answers that can reveal the beautiful tree that we all are connected to.

by Héenkát.han  
(Logan Law)



**We all want to come home, to belong and feel accepted**



# O&M and CAPITAL

Andy Carlick & Moses Track

We would like to recognize and acknowledge our respected Elders our clan directors, our department team and committee, every staff member working for TRTFN and every individual. Thank you for being part of all the work that is being achieved by everyone.

Many projects have been completed within the last year; these projects can be viewed in detail on the O&M page at the TRTFN website. One such project we are proud to report on is the 4 modern & beautiful housing units that are in its final stage for inspection. We continue to plan for the building of more spaces for future generations. TRTFN is exploring affordable housing units and new building facilities to accommodate elders, vulnerable members, singles, and families.

This season we will focus on our community safety projects. Our fuel management mapping and protection of land around our TRTFN homes, cultural center, and cultural camp at the point. These are in its final stage. We are working on evacuation route planning, to investigate options for an alternative 5-mile reserve evacuation route.

Fire smart landscaping around homes is of particular importance for our community. Thus, we are prioritizing this for the spring and summer seasons. The scope of this work will include the removal of any vegetation around homes from 1.5-meter distance to prevent fire from reaching very close to any house. We are in the stage of beginning and exploring all the infrastructure gaps for the whole community. We are also identifying urgent renovations for this year.

With everyone moving forward together we work toward a common vision. Collectively we all ensure supports and opportunities for the Elders, Youth, families, and community members. We are excited to be proceeding with these new goals that focus on the needs of our members. We recognize and appreciate our team for what they have achieved until now.

## **Moses track**

Manager Capital, Housing,  
and Public Works





# Welcome Jacob Mathew

**Administrative Assistant and Finance Clerk**

I decided to move to Atlin for this wonderful opportunity to serve as the Administrative Assistant and Finance Clerk. Working and living within a small community and serving the First Nation Peoples in this territory is a great honor. My desire is to meet new people and learn about the culture that makes them who they are.

My journey to the north is not so different from many others. I was born and raised in Southern India with my family. I lived in a beautiful place where there are many mountains, lakes, and dams. Fishing and camping are things I enjoy doing.

**If you want to  
achieve something  
in life you have to  
come out of your  
comfort zone.**

My philosophy has always been, unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.

My desire to travel propelled me forward and one day, 6 years ago I decided to move to Windsor, Ontario as a student. I completed my master's in business and started working. Another opportunity to move to northern Canada bought me to the magnificent and wild Yukon Territory.

I love working with everyone here at Taku River Tlingit First Nation. The staff have been so helpful and kind. Atlin reminds me of my hometown and brings me a sense of peace and connection to the land. What a wonderful journey it has been thus far.





Alice Carlick

# TRADITIONAL Gifts

We embrace the fact that we are all residential school survivors, we have to be proud of our strength and not look back and feel bad, instead look ahead, and live for our children our grandchildren and our great grandchildren. I am so proud to say I have 3

**Trip to Vancouver with our young people 2021**

grandchildren. I am so proud to say I have 3 grandchildren. It's a blessing from Creator to have my wonderful family, my daughters, and their families around me and to share in their joys.

## Medicines

I make traditional medicines and I am so happy to share and trade them with our community. Every year I make medicines from Balsam bark, yarrow oil (amazing for pain), caribou leaves and cottonwood bud oil (good

for ear aches and tooth aches, arthritis, and burns), Arnica and Hudson bay tea, Labrador tea oil, harvested roses, blueberries, and gooseberries. All these amazing gifts were used for centuries by our people to find relief from pain and injury and overall, wellbeing. These natural medicines have strong healing properties and are packed with vitamins and minerals that do wonders for your body.

These natural medicines use less chemicals and agree with our body's natural way of healing. Our bodies know what we need, and when we train ourselves to seek for what it needs from the land around us, we can use it to heal.

## Grandma's trail

Grandma's trail is a beautiful easy walk along the water's edge of Atlin Lake. It was made and used to learn and listen to traditional knowledge from me. If you wish to learn about the land and how to identify the plants and foods that can heal your body and soul, please contact me. I love taking groups on the trail and spending time sharing knowledge.

## Sewing Slippers

I have developed a unique way of sewing slippers that makes them fit like a glove. If you would like to learn this technique from me, I would be happy to share it with you.

Traditional knowledge is shared, and it is an honor to pass it on to those willing to learn our way.









# Heritage



Alice Connor

**TRADITIONAL Gifts**  
 by Roberta Shepherd  
 Heritage Coordinator

It's exciting to be here. The heritage department was closed for a time because of low staffing. I know that many people are excited to see things moving in heritage again. I lived in Atlin many years ago and was taken away as a 60's scoop kid and placed in a foster home at 15. Taken from Atlin to Calgary. We embrace the fact that we are all residential school survivors. We have to be proud of our struggles and journey back and forth and adopted and adopted and live and feel our children and grandchildren and our great grandchildren. I am so proud to say I have 3 great granddaughters now. It is such a joy to have an open door policy; we want you to feel accepted and comfortable to ask questions about your history. People come in and want to know more about their families. We are able, within this department to show you transcripts and access detailed mentions and history of your family members. Using the NIVO engine (a powerful digital search engine used to store and share information). happy to share and trade them with our community. Every year I make medicines from Balsam bark, yarrow oil (amazing for pain), caribou leaves and cottonwood bud oil (good

red oil, harvested roots, bloodroot, and gooseberries. All these amazing gifts were used for centuries by our people to find relief from pain and injury and overall, wellbeing. These natural medicines have strong healing properties and are packed with vitamins and minerals that do wonders for your body. We would love to get more young people involved. Knowing where you came from is a powerful gift in shaping your identity. Our goal is to have any citizen who want to learn about their family, no matter where in the world you are, to have access to these treasures. You will be able to read transcripts or see pictures, but also access video and audio of your family members. We will also have maps and details about medicines and where to find them. We are gathering needs from the local community and use them to help and it will serve to bring our heritage to life.

## Grandma's trail

Grandma's trail is a beautiful easy walk along the water's edge of Atlin Lake. It was made



Photo Credit: Manu Keggenhoff



The gifts of  
**Joanne Williams**



Traditional Bentwood boxes made by Joanne Williams  
Phone **250 651 7664**



The gifts of  
**Pamela Jim**



Contact Pamela Jim to  
order slippers, gloves,  
dream catchers,  
earrings and more.

**867-332-2166 cell**  
**250-651-7742 home**

[pamelaspassioninaction@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaspassioninaction@gmail.com)



**by Roberta Shepherd**  
Heritage Coordinator

It's exciting to be here. The heritage department was closed for a time because of low staffing. I know that many people are excited to see things moving in heritage again. I lived in Atlin many years ago and was taken away as a 60's scoop kid and placed in a foster home at 15. Taken from Atlin to Calgary. I've desired to make positive memories here in Atlin as an adult, as my childhood memories were quite traumatic. It's a big circle to journey back and work with my adopted TRTFN family who I love and feel such acceptance from. It is such an honor to serve this community.

We have an open-door policy; we want you to feel accepted and comfortable to ask questions about your history. People come in and want to know more about their families. We are able, within this department to show you transcripts and access detailed mentions and history of your family members, using the NVIVO engine (a powerful digital search engine used to store and categorize information).

We would love to get more young people involved. Knowing where you come from is a powerful gift in shaping your identity. Our goal is to have any citizen who want to learn about their family, no matter where in the world you are, to have access to these treasures. You will be able to read transcripts or see pictures, but also access video and audio of your family members. We will also have maps and details about medicines and where and how they were gathered and used. The wealth of information is so empowering, and it will serve to bring our heritage to life.



Photo Credit: Manu Keggenhoff



# Change the things you cannot Accept



**by Tamis Cochrane**  
**Assistant Coordinator**  
**Taku River Tlingit Oral Histories Project**

In a way, it was the voices of my Ancestors which brought me home. My work on the Oral Histories Project brought me to Atlin for the first time August 2021. I also work with the Xwi7xwa Library at UBC. Xwi7xwa is a Skwxwú7mesh word which has a meaning similar to the dleit kaa xéinax word "Echo." Our role at Xwi7xwa is to 'echo' out Indigenous perspectives, worldview, and knowledge to the broader UBC community and members. We do this through our collections, classification system and programs and services. I am lucky in my work at Xwi7xwa because I am surrounded by knowledge from many communities.

My role at Xwi7xwa is very public service oriented. When I first started it was common for people to inquire about my identity. I struggled to vocalize it, without having any social, familial or community connections as I am adopted. I began the process of re-connecting with my family as a result and so my role at Xwi7xwa is a part of my homecoming story. My brother Hector Dennis facilitated a connection with Louise Gordon, who in turn introduced me to long time TRTFN Researcher Jeannie Kanakos, and that is how I came to work on the Oral Histories Project.

The ability of community members to be able to access the voices and knowledge of their ancestors in the oral histories is incredibly important. The voices of so many community elders who have come before me that I have gotten to listen to from being on this project have built a bridge which spans both

time and space, and so this is why I say the voices of my ancestors brought me home. Some people grew up here and move away, and they retain those family and social connections that they have developed earlier on in life. But for those of us who were adopted and have never set foot on our traditional territory it provides a bridge home. It connects you to family, culture, language, and history. It's a solid bridge.

My Tlingit language teacher Nahaan puts a twist on the "Serenity Prayer" where we are encouraged to "Accept the things you cannot change." He says, "Change the things you cannot accept."

**I cannot accept that my daughter's  
largest barrier to learning about her  
identity is my own lack of knowledge  
about our culture.**

**I cannot accept that my own lack of  
knowledge of who I am becomes my  
intergenerational legacy.**

**I cannot accept that in a world where I  
won't get beaten for speaking Tlingit  
I don't try to learn it.**

**I cannot accept that the Elders who we  
still have with us, who went to Residential  
school and managed to hold on to the  
language, they went through that only  
for it to get lost.**

Discover the things you cannot accept and change it. Your world will change when you do.



**Jorge Llaca Buznego, PhD.**  
**Education Manager**

At TFLC we continue to support the spiritual, emotional, and cultural growth for Tlingit and Atlin children through early years programming. We are proactive in finding ways to ensure that Tlingit knowledge, language, and ways of being are transmitted to next generation for continuous renewal.

We encourage parents and the Atlin community to play a role in the planning and implementation of our programs. Together we make the TFLC a place of engagement for family support, community development, and cultural revitalization.

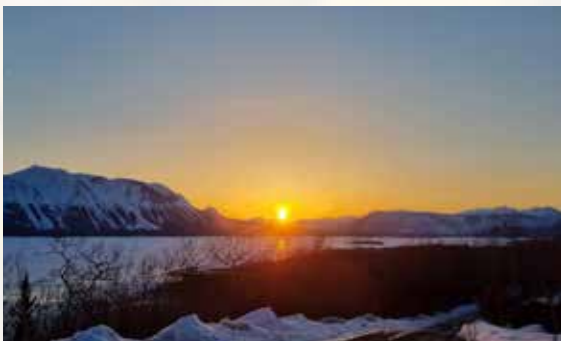


Photo Credit: Brent Law







# X'atulitseen Haa Yatx'i

Children are important/precious to us



# Community Safety & Supports

If you are in a dark place,  
who is your safety person?

Everybody should have somebody they can call and reach out to when they need support. If you don't have anybody to call, please call the following numbers, these people are willing and ready to support you. If you do not feel comfortable calling your community Elders, leaders and support people. Please use this list for other services and helpline support.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT MEMBERS



**Crow leader  
Vernon Williams**



**Crow Director  
Vivian Mahoney**



**Crow director  
Shirley Reeves**



**Wolf director  
Louise Gordon**

## COMMUNITY COUNSELORS



**Katie Isreal** GN, MA, RCC  
**AVAILABLE BY PHONE, VIDEO CONFERENCING  
AND IN-PERSON :**  
**867 334 9524 | [katie@tranquilpathways.ca](mailto:katie@tranquilpathways.ca)**  
I work with youth and adults experiencing challenges such as depression, anxiety, low self esteem, stress, relationship problems, post-traumatic stress disorder.



**Meg Grudeski** CCC  
**AVAILABLE BY PHONE, VIDEO CONFERENCING  
AND IN-PERSON :**  
**867 689 4594 | [mgrudeski@northernfocus.ca](mailto:mgrudeski@northernfocus.ca)**  
Clinical experience in solution-focused, harm reduction, and cognitive-behavioural models. She has specialized experience with teens and youth



**Tayo Adamak** MA, CCC  
**AVAILABLE BY PHONE, VIDEO CONFERENCING  
AND IN-PERSON :**  
**867 334 9458 | [tpadamek@gmail.com](mailto:tpadamek@gmail.com)**  
I work with youth and adults, with experience in a range of issues including trauma and PTSD, depression, anxiety, attachment, and suicide.



**Svenja Curial** MC, Reg. Psych, CCC  
**AVAILABLE BY PHONE, VIDEO CONFERENCING  
AND IN-PERSON :**  
**867 335 3248 | [info@svenja-weber.ca](mailto:info@svenja-weber.ca)**  
I specialize in the treatment of Trauma, which may involve providing support with: mood issues (anxiety/depression), addictive behaviours, grief, post-traumatic stress, self-destructive behaviours, relationship issues, self-worth, painful memories, dissociation, childhood abuse and neglect, critical incidents – accidents, and intergenerational trauma (and more).

**Indian Residential School Crisis line**  
(Toll Free 24/7)  
1-866-925-4419

**Hope for Wellness**  
(Toll Free 24/7, Indigenous Counselors)  
1-866-925-4419

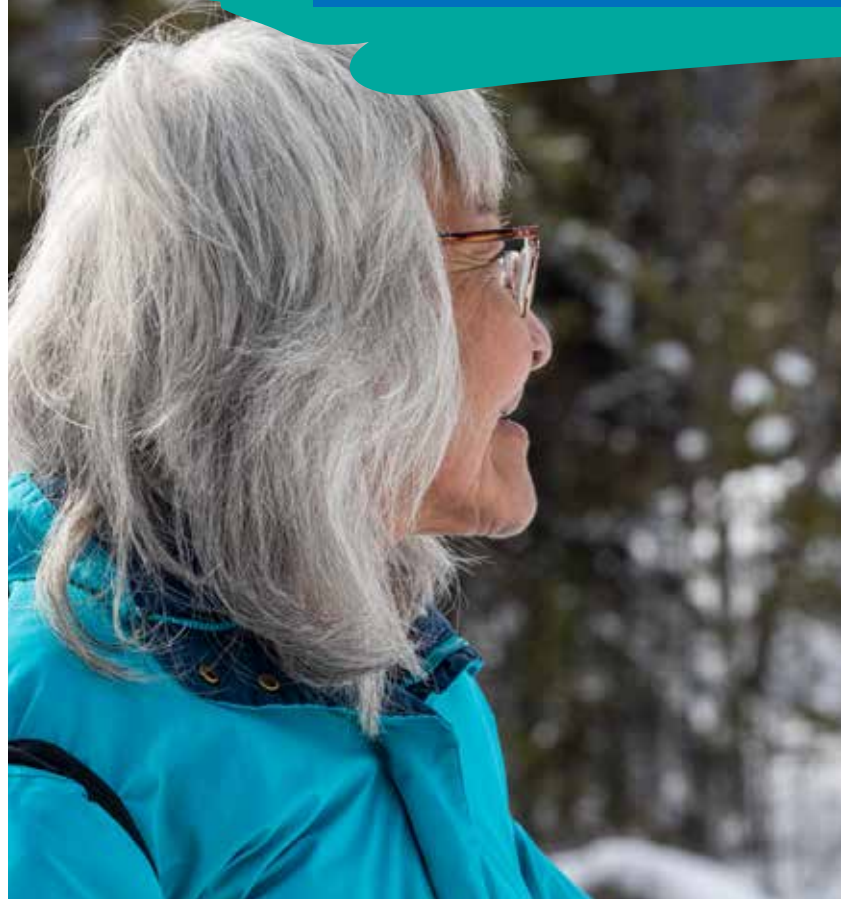
**Women's Transition Home Crisis Line**  
(24/7, can call collect for free calling)  
1-867-668-5733





## Honoring Great Moments

June Jack took the capacity building for self-government course in 2002/2003, she was so successful she made the northern lights college honor roll. Remembering this great job June!





# It is time for Lingít Language

Wayne Carlick Cultural Coordinator

To revitalize our Lingít language and bring it back into the community is at the heart of our work. Our Tlingit identity is born through our language. By living in our traditional way, we remember ourselves and learn about each other. At our Center for Culture we revive our art, our regalia and our songs. Speaking our language is the most incredible healing and inspiring experience. Hearing our people speaking, laughing and joking in Lingít. Everyone being kind and patient with each other as we learn and remember who we are.

There have been three times in my life that I followed a calling because I loved what I was doing. Learning and teaching Lingít is one of them. Every Thursday from 9am to 5pm at the Center is Lingít Language Class. My whole week revolves around this day and it has changed my world.

The work that we do today with our language is like a pebble in the lake of time. The ripple effects of which will go out into our community for generations illuminating and healing us. It is difficult to truly express the joy and healing that has come to me through the Children of the Taku Language revitalization classes. I wish this healing for us all.

Gunalcheésh

Email: [wayne.carlick@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.carlick@gmail.com)  
or call **250-651-7449**

Photo Credit: Rebecca Law





# Remembering Celebration 2018



**CARVING WORKSHOP** with Wayne Carlick at the Center for Culture  
For Workshops visit the Center for Culture for info **Monday - Friday 10:30 - 4pm / 5pm - 9pm**



# TRTFN Archaeology 2021

by Ben Louter

2021 has been a busy year for archaeology in Taku River Tlingit territory! From the glaciated peaks of the Coast Range to the swift currents of the Southern Taku watershed, the Heritage team and the Land Guardians revisited ancient habitation sites, hunting grounds and cultivated landscapes. The ancestral sites that we visited last summer revealed the deep history of the Taku River Tlingit people in the Taku and Yukon watersheds, and throughout the traditional territories.

## Tatsatua River village project

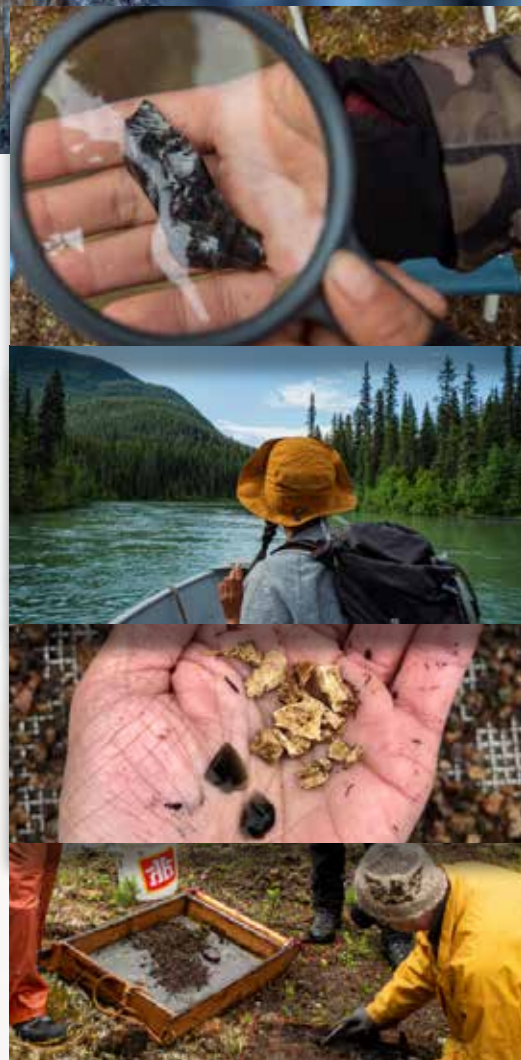
Back in 2018 the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) began building modular cabins on the Tatsatua river near Tatsemenie Lake, in the southern Taku watershed. This is the location where TRTFN Fisheries staff usually snag salmon carcasses in the fall.

In the fall of 2019, I heard that during the construction of these cabins, there were a lot of artifacts that were being dug up by the DFO construction crews. In BC, if any cultural materials are discovered that are pre-1846, construction must cease immediately under the provincial Heritage Conservation Act. Although DFO is a federal agency, they did not obey these laws.

By the spring of 2020, we were ready to fly out to the camp and assess the site. Shauna Yeomans, (Land Guardian) Trevor Williams, (Land Guardian) myself and Blake Evans (archaeologist) visited Tatsatua in 2020 to map out any cultural features, such as cache pits, artifacts, as well as culturally modified trees.

Throughout the week that we spent at Tatsatua, we identified several stone tools and dozens of lithic (stone) fragments, which are a by-product of tool making. We also mapped out a trail that was lined by dozens of bark stripped, Culturally Modified Trees (CMT's). The permit that we had allowed us to map out feature and artifacts that were visible on the surface.

In between some new cabins, we found a hearth feature with a lot of charcoal and burned mammal bones, with obsidian flakes broadcast all around it. It was easy to imagine a Tlingit ancestor sitting by a fire making dinner and crafting some stone tools. Once we had finished the survey, I sent some samples to a lab for analysis and radiocarbon dating. The lab identified beaver, marmot, and black bear elements amongst the charred bone fragments. Unlike stone, the organic bone fragments can be dated because they contain carbon 14.



**The lab confirmed that a hearth feature at Tatsatua is at least 4,000 years old!**

*For context, that's around the time the last woolly mammoths went extinct in North America. While it is no surprise that Taku River Tlingit people have been living in the Taku watershed for thousands of years, it is still fascinating to learn more about the deep history of Taku River Tlingit land use.*



**Read lots more on the 2021 archaeology work done by TRTFN with pictures and maps at this link:**

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9474320c525a468994a9d8de7ce32868>





I gu.aa yax x'wán

Have strength and courage

Tlingit Youth Cailyn Fraser Harris

# Pearls of Wisdom

by Pamela Jim

With many choices placed before us, we choose what path we take in life. Whatever your decision, there will always be a reward or a consequence. If you are a parent, you know, every experience is new for you as a caregiver and for your children. We learn together with our children; they teach us just as much as we teach them. We are here to help them understand their life and in turn they have a way of teaching us the most essential things about life that we tend to forget as we get older.

Often in my own healing, I've had to forgive myself for the things I allowed in my life. Being able to say to my inner child; "I'm sorry." I see "wrong" choices in life as, learning to live, and living to learn. Everything in life is a learning situation. Healthy or unhealthy, we're meant to learn something.

It is a decision made every day how I present myself to the world. I want to be good, and give good, and have good vibrations and energy surround me. To resist the urges that use to bind me and evolve into the person my ancestors envisioned. I am coming up on 5 months of sobriety, the more I want sobriety the more I enjoy healthy living.

Our children learn from us, they also learn from their peers and mistakes will be made. We sure made them. So we let them learn from their mistakes, as we had to learn from ours. Providing a stable and healthy foundation for them, by healing from our past traumas, makes a difference in the kinds of choices they make and the lifestyle they lead. Healing for me, involves many steps, one was making amends to those I wronged. Another was embracing my culture.

I remember getting into sewing. Aunt Elizabeth Nyman came to the school when we had Elders come in once a month. She taught us in grade 3 how to do beading. I did my first flower. Years later my mother – in – law bugged me to continue sewing; I was a bit intimidated to bring her any work I was doing. She was so knowledgeable and strict at the same time. When I would visit her, she would ask me if I walked with my sewing and would get quite excited to sit with me and see my progress.

She would sit with me and guide me through difficult parts of the process. I finally finished my first pair of slippers, and gifted it to my mom. It was such an accomplishment and a great feeling to see the finished product.

My mother-in-law shared a pearl of wisdom with me, a mantra that I have kept in my life. She would say:

**“ If you are going through a hard time, SEW.**

**If you're stressed out, SEW.**

**You need money, SEW.**

**You need food, SEW.**

**Sewing will help you through your hard times and stressful moments.”**



With every pair of slippers I made, I would get better and better. I upgraded to earrings, mitts, and dream catchers. Once I finished my slippers, my desire grew; I wanted to learn the cultural cycle. How to hunt, tend the moose meat, get the hide that I could work with, tan it, and make slippers from it.



So, this year I did, I went out on the land and was successful with a moose, and next it's the tanning part. And so, I continue to grow and learn. Being on the land is so important for healing, it clears my mind, and it balances all my emotions. Culture helps us get through the grieving process, over the last 3 years I have lost so many people in my life, my Aunty Carol was one of them, she and I were close.

When I start feeling heavy hearted, and stuck in my thoughts, I need to go to the land, it truly helps. Its helps keep your heart and mind busy to guide you to accepting the news and laying the burden down and walking the path to celebration of life.

My family's highlight every two years (post covid) was going to Juneau Celebration. When we go there, it's like a non-stop adrenalin rush. From the drumming that pulses through your heart, the regalia worn by little babies to Elders. Moms, dads & children, dancing and singing, chanting, smiling, laughing and loving our culture. It's a magical experience.

Entering the doors to the stage and being welcomed with singing and dance. The collective voice of a strong people. We enter the stage with our backs to the audience showing our clans crests, to show and respect our clan first.

**We turn with the sun;  
the sun is life.**

**We go with life, water  
is life, air, and Mother  
earth, when she turns  
then we turn with her.**

Pamela Jim

*Pamela Jim wearing her mother's (Vivian Mahoney) blanket.*



# Finance

Hello all from the Finance department! I hope that everyone is have a great spring and enjoying the sun. Speaking of sun, I am looking forward to summer. It will be nice to enjoy the lake in liquid form again. I hope to fill my weekends this summer with paddling, hiking and camping.

Finance has been understaffed this past couple of months with just Colleen and I (Robyn) holding down the fort. We are working hard at keeping the department running smoothly! We are both very grateful that Jacob Mathew is now working for TRTFN and assisting us in finance.

You will see Jacob at the front, he is also the voice on the other end of the phone when you call TRT. As well as being the front desk administrative assistant, Jacob is also a part time finance clerk. He has been doing filing, organizing our contracts and assisting with inputting invoices into our accounting system. He is learning quickly and has been a great help!

The finance department is also hoping to hire an accounts payable clerk. Once we do, I will be moving onto working with our contribution agreements/ funding agreements. I am looking forward to assist TRTFN members in a new way. Hopefully, I will be able to introduce you all to a new member of our finance team soon!

Wishing everyone a great spring and summer!

Robyn Moore  
Acting Financial Controller



**TRTFN VAN WILL ONLY STOP AT**

**TRTFN OFFICE  
ATLIN HEALTH CENTER  
POST OFFICE  
FOOD BASKET**

**ABSOLUTELY NO DRUGS OR  
ALCOHOL ALLOWED**

**AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR WILL  
NOT BE TOLERATED**



Tlingits learn to cook

# Just Because!



JOEANNE'S KITCHEN

## TLINGIT'S

*Learning to cook...  
Just because*



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SHOW  
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AT OUR TUTAN HIT KITCHEN  
**EVERY SUNDAY**  
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LET'S LEARN HOW TO COOK

**TRADITIONAL MEALS - BAKE COOKIES & BREADS  
MAKE PASTAS & YUMMY STUFF!**

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250-651-7664





TAKU RIVER TLINGIT  
First Nation

