



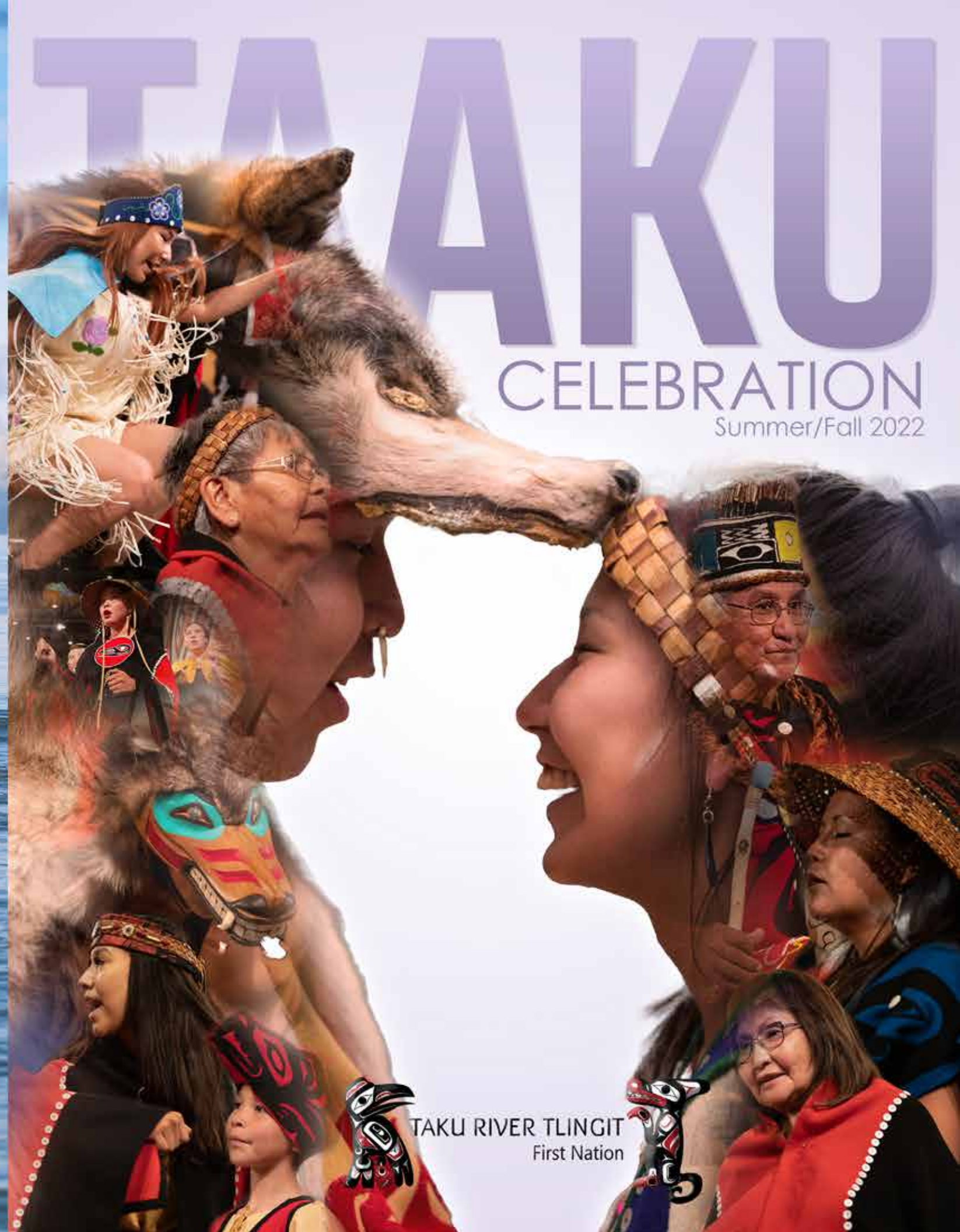
TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



TAKU

CELEBRATION

Summer/Fall 2022



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



T'aakú Téix'i The Heart of the Taku

Contributors to this publication include: TRTFN staff and members of the Health and Social Department Youth Program. Its aim is to showcase the amazing work of our TRTFN staff and share stories and knowledge within our community. We invite you to email us your comments, questions and things that you would like to see added in each issue (hss.media@trtfn.gov.ca).

Editorial Note: We hope you enjoy this Celebration 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 a sense of connection.

Please visit our website at www.trtfn.com for more information about TRTFN, and to download this and other issues to read and share virtually and to join our TRTFN mailing list.

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TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
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Cover: Photography by Manu Keggenhoff 2018 & 2022 Juneau Celebrations

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Photography by Rebecca Law / Taku River Tlingit First Nation

Emergency Management

Daniel Kempling
Manager



Building Resiliency

Within the realms of occupational safety and training that TRTFN provides, we continue to celebrate moves forward. Our safety department had a great attendance and full graduation for the most recent First Aid course in August. Our Fire Extinguisher training serves to re-educate our staff in its use and ways to react effectively in case of fire emergencies in the workplace. It is so important for all of us to be ready for emergencies. So, we continue to train our staff and members to have levelheaded awareness, which will aid in keeping ourselves, co-workers and our loved ones safe. We offer elevated safety talks and educational support regularly to all our teams in TRTFN and our corporation.

A healthy safety program is supported by regular folks with a certain determination to be vigilant about workplace hazards. We are happy when our staff can notice things, even simple things, like the tires on a van being worn, or being curious about the risks of a piece of equipment. When our people feel safe and excited to point things out, that's when we know our safety plan is being owned by everyone. "Because of your eyes, we have a safer van." Violence may happen from time to time in our community, we are dedicated to keeping our workers safe. Our

"Be full of Care, in other words be Careful"

department offers training in verbal de-escalation and other protocols for our front-line teams. Providing staff with proper communication tools, radios and backups for their work in the field is a priority.

With good process and safe teams, we can serve our community to the best of our ability.

We continue to invite the community of Atlin to participate in our community safety workshops.



Photography by Daniel Kempling / Taku River Tlingit First Nation

Our goal is to foster working relationships with capable people willing to support the whole community in times of emergency.

We are not here to impose rules on anyone, we do however ask people to be 'full of care' for themselves and others, or in other words be Careful.



Jinik Charmaine Thom

TRTFN SPOKESPERSON

danced for it. So, he gifted it to me on the ferry ride over to Juneau, and sure enough I had to dance for it! And did I dance! In front of my family, friends and strangers, I danced for my blanket.

We always enjoy Celebration in Juneau. We love our Tlingit brothers and sisters on the coast, and to celebrate and be acknowledged by them is such a joy. This year was extra special, because we waited so long for it. With covid and all the restrictions that came with it. This celebration felt like freedom, the freedom to cross borders and share physical space with our Tlingit family and connect again.

We have so many accomplishments to share, the astounding work that our TRTFN teams have put in. I am in awe everyday of our progress. In the past 7 months alone we have purchased the Warm springs property and TRTFN became a member of Council of Yukon First Nations, we were formally accepted to the Yukon forum by the Premiere and Minister and we got high-speed Internet! This may seem like a small thing to some, but wow! It was something to celebrate! We celebrated the Otter Creek restoration project and the amazing team who worked on it. I want to celebrate our youth who are just knocking it out of the park! I can go on and on.

We all should be so proud of the work we have done and the connections we have made. We are working for the dreams of our ancestors. The dream of a strong independent, healthy Nation.

Our leadership knows that there are families and people who are hurting right now, we want to acknowledge you if you are reading this. We want you to know that we love you, we are working for you, we are here for you.

Gunalchéesh

Celebration!

We have, at times, adopted the sense that it is not appropriate to celebrate. I believe that that information is a direct result of the residential school system. Through that system, we as Indigenous people, were told that we can't dance, celebrate, use our blankets, do ceremony or sing. It wasn't allowed. That trauma has continued throughout the generations and manifested itself in a programming that makes us see celebration as the opposite of humility.

I remember my father had a shirt made up that read, "It's hard to be Tlingit and humble!" It really struck home for me. My dad was a real advocate for being culturally strong and true to yourself. He celebrated our Haa Kustee, our way of life. I was raised to be proud of who I was. Proud to be Tlingit, proud to be a strong capable woman. For a long time, these elements were missing, and it has come back to us. So today and in this Summer/fall edition of the Taaku Magazine, we are doing it loud and proud! We are really uplifting our people in a way that was previously frowned upon. Yesterday it was not accepted, today it is.

We acknowledge the wrongs that have happened in the past, and we are uplifting our people culturally, mentally, emotionally. It's a great feeling to be a proud Tlingit. Going forward we must install these values back into our children. Let them know that we are proud of who we are, and here to stay!

It was such a beautiful experience going to Juneau this past June. One of the great moments for me was being gifted my Tlingit blanket. My husband Greg had Wayne Carlick make it for me. I was told, by our master carver, that I couldn't have the blanket till I





Celebrations

by Charles Pugh

The Nation, coming out of covid season, has been washed with energy, joy and excitement. Once again, our citizens can visit, share and reconnect. This was so clear at the Juneau celebration, when our dancers came alive with pride and their Tlingit culture. It was very hard to see anyone without a smile, through all those days of joyous celebration.

People were proud to show their regalia and proud to live their regalia. As we re-connected with our Tlingit neighbors from the coast to Yukon, it was a time of such great excitement.

Another tremendous breakthrough was the recognition of what our elders have always known—that borders do not contain our Nation. This year the Yukon government has accepted us as a member of the Yukon Forum and Yukon First Nations welcomed us as a member of CYFN.

We continue to explore these great boundaries as our Nation expands, as was highlighted when a member of our dance group had the uncanny feeling in Juneau of seeing someone that they recognized but didn't know, and later finding out that that person was a direct relative.

We celebrated the purchase of the Warm Springs property, a great achievement that for some was a lifelong dream realized. The TRTFN unveiled our Indigenous signage at the Canadian border at Fraser, this brings us much pride and joy.

In so many areas we are filled with celebration this year and it is wonderful to watch our next generation grow up and to celebrate alongside their elders and to look forward to tomorrow.

Gunalchéesh,



Northern Lights College Campus



After a year of negotiations, the Northern Lights College Campus (NLC) is under the direction of the TRTFN Tlingit Family Learning Center.



Emergency Coordination and community contact Meeting. Facilitated by a team from First Nations Emergency Services Society & TRTFN. Location: The Tlingit Family Learning Center.



Children of the Taku (COTS) Language Graduates at their graduation ceremony this Summer 2022. Location: The gathering point in Atlin BC.

Fraser Boarder Crossing Tlingit Signage Unveiling

September 1st 2022



The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) engaged with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on the upgrades being made to the port of entry, including the addition of Indigenous cultural representation.

On September 1st the Tlingit interpretative sign that was designed by Manu Keggenhoff on behalf of the TRTFN, was revealed and displayed at the renovated port of entry at Fraser BC. Members of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation spoke on our role on this project at this ceremony.





Land, Water & Air

Rodger Thorlakson TRTFN Lands & Resources Manager

What an exciting time in our Territory. Our Lands and Resources have seen many wins, from our Otter Creek restoration project to the Tulesquah valley revitalization efforts. Our land guardians have been energized throughout the summer, and our teams of qualified staff are determined to keep our land, water and air clean, sacred and respected.

I am so proud of our young people who joined us this summer on the land, Luke Wesley & Izaiah Carlick. We hoped you enjoyed your time with our teams and had a good start to the fall school term.

Our department newsletters are very detailed and have much to report on all our projects. Please visit the TRTFN website below 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>

Photography provided by Jerry Jack & Jason Williams



Snapshots from Juneau Celebration 2022



SNAPSHOTS OF TRTFN SUMMER Archaeology 2022

By Ben Louter



Wayne Carlick, Debra Michel, Luke Wesley, Blake and I (Ben Louter) visited an ochre quarry nestled deep in the mountains of Tlingit Áani. We scrambled across a steep brushy burn to get to the edge of the canyon. On route we spotted three grizzlies. It was definitely a struggle getting in and out.

Once we arrived, I rappelled into the canyon to begin harvesting some ochre. Ochre is a very special substance; it has been used as a pigment by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.

The fourth photo is a pictograph on the Taku that is made of ochre. It can last for millennia in the right conditions. I'm truly excited to see the new creations that will be made from this material!



Taku grizzlies lined the banks of the river during my week helping with the construction of the Nakina Weir. Being able to watch these incredible beings' fish for salmon, eat berries, take care of their cubs, and interact with us humans sure filled me with a newfound sense of awe and respect. A huge thank you to Mark and Angela for sharing your deep knowledge of grizzlies.



Tlingit trail marker located near Dzántik'iHéeni (Juneau). The purpose of these markers was to identify different clans' rights to use a certain trade route. Usually placed on a spruce, each carving is made without harming the tree itself, as the trees' sap forms a protective seal over the carving, preventing insects from burrowing beneath the surface.
Carving by Michael Beasley.

Visited the @juneauicefieldresearchprogram camp on the Llewellyn glacier with a group of amazing Elders (and Logan Law).

Interactions with glaciers play a huge role in the origin stories of the Taku Tlingit, with waves of migration passing over-top of and underneath the glaciers that once blocked the Taku and Stikine rivers.

Thanks to Annika Ord for showing us around. There's lots of potential for a community gathering up here!

Photography by Ben Louter

TRTFN Guardians



Youth workers - O&M
Matthew Wesley & Levi Coleman



Land guardians
Photo log by Shauna Yeomans



Luke and Izaiah - Youth Land guardians
Photo log by Luke Westley



Surprise lake archaeological work, out in the field catching grayling for supper finding artifacts on rainy days.. fun @
Photo Log by Brittany Westley



Community Advisor

Louise Gordon

Gunalchéesh to the Creator for the blessing of my people, the land and the animals. Gunalchéesh for our families and friends who work together with our Nation for our wellbeing and health.

As Community Advisor I care deeply about improving the quality of life for my neighbours and community members. I am keen to learn more about the issues facing our community and about projects and programs that are working to address these concerns.

This is a season for Celebration, and we have much to celebrate. The purchase of our warm springs' property is one great accomplishment that I would like to shout out in this article.

I honor Ed Wolfe for his foresight and his love for our Tlingit people. He paved a legal way for us to purchase this sacred land and use it for our celebrations and ceremony again. We thank his family for honoring his wishes and restoring the land back to the Tlingit People. We thank Steven Badhwar and his family, along with David Thorn, for being wonderful caretakers of the land for the last 30 years.

Gunalchéesh, to all of our hard-working staff and volunteers who serve so lovingly with us. Gunalchéesh to my Clan directors who are my strength and compass at all times. Gunalchéesh, to my Spokesperson Charmaine Thom for her leadership and grace. Gunalchéesh, to my family, the work I do is from my heart and for you all.

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

TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION CONSTITUTION ACT, 1993



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**

Photography by Manu Keggenhoff / Taku River Tlingit First Nation



Taku River Tlingit Paddlers on Teslin Lake for the Dakh Ka Day Celebration in Teslin, July 28th

Dakhká Day Celebration in Teslin

July 28th 2022



Every odd year in the summer, the Dakhká Day, or Tlingit Day Celebration is held. This July 28th Celebration was hosted at the Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre. The Inland Tlingit nations, Teslin Tlingit Council, Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Taku River Tlingit First Nation came together this year for the first time since the Covid Pandemic. It was a glorious celebration. One elder noted that she had not been back to Teslin for many years and her heart was so happy to be with her people again, to hear the drums, sing songs, play games and celebrate.

♥ My Happy Adeline

My sister, mom and grandma danced in Juneau Celebration this year. It will be awesome to join them next year and hopefully our beautiful Adeline and I can be ready with our regalia. My dream is to see all 4 generations of Tlingit women in my family dancing on stage. Adeline loves dancing already! ♥♥♥♥ Ashley Jim

Latséeni Daakahidi

'House of Strength & Wellness'



I'm home.

I'd never fully embraced that concept before, until I turned down the Atlin road to what would be a path designed for me from the Creator. I was so energized driving here from Manitoba. Everything I see is new, but it doesn't feel new, it feels like re-connection for my spirit. The first person I met when I arrived was Ali (Alice Carlick). I drove around to make sure I knew where the TRTFN office building was, in order to make it on time for work the next day. Ali was sitting outside her home. She acknowledged me, she saw me, she lit up and I could see her. We talked for a long time, and we connected.

That first day June Jack had her celebration at the point, since then I was drawn to her and her spirit. Vincent and his family were so kind to me, offering me their guest house. Everyone I met felt like family. The Tlingit people are survivors; they are kind, empowered and dynamic people.

I worked for just over 5 years in a residential

treatment center. It was a heartbreaking and beautiful experience at the same time. The hardest part for me was working with people from a few weeks to a few months at times, and then when we separated, not knowing how they were recovering, how or if they came back to life in their communities. After sharing so much time and bonding with them the separation was difficult.

This was one of the reasons I accepted the opportunity to serve in Atlin. It is a place to actually live, make friends and create lasting connections. It's a kinder investment for my heart.

I believe there are no right or wrong teachings. There are teaching that fit where we are in life and teachings that don't. It's about which ones we need to hold close and which ones we need to let go. Everyone has a purpose. Often times if we don't know what our purpose is, it's because someone else has a purpose to complete before ours comes into motion. I sometimes feel the need to apologize when meeting someone I know I can help, knowing my assistance may help them move forward to serve someone else. I say, "I'm sorry it took me a while to be here with you, it wasn't yet my time." It's my way of acknowledging that belief, that we are all interconnected.

I'm here now. Part of my role is to see if I can help people come to a place where they can understand their purpose when their purpose comes to light. What a beautiful place to call home, I'm so happy to be a part of this community.

Jennifer Hearn

Latseeni Daakahidi "House of Strength"
Manager, Health and Wellness Department

Gunalcheesh to our dedicated staff & volunteers!

Otter Creek Celebration

August 26TH 2022

by Jackie Caldwell, BSc.
TRTFN Mining Officer

The Otter Creek mine site was damaged and impacted from years of placer mining. Our restoration project was a way to heal the land and the hurt for our Taku River Tlingit people and our Atlin community members.

Our long term vision is for the grayling to return to the creek in 10 – 15 years, however as we walk along the shores of the creek, we see little grayling fry which is so encouraging and brings tears to our eyes.

The TRTFN have been working to restore, reclaim and enhance habitat around the lower Otter Creek. To finally arrive at this Otter Creek Celebration day, took

so many years of hard work and visioning. To see it realized, to say that the main part of the project is done, and people are celebrating that, brings an overwhelming feeling of happiness and gratitude.

The Atlin school kids and staff joined us at our celebration, and it was a heartwarming sight. They painted bird boxes, planted and watered trees, toured around and asked questions, they had ideas for the site.

Our celebration was so well attended by all members of our Atlin community and staff. I want to thank our O&M team for their amazing support with bringing tents, chairs and tables and taking them away after. What great teamwork for a successful event.



Community Safety & Supports

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
I work with youth and adults experiencing challenges such as depression, anxiety, low self esteem, stress, relationship problems, post-traumatic stress disorder.



Svenja Curial MC, Reg. Psych, CCC
AVAILABLE BY PHONE, VIDEO CONFERENCING AND IN-PERSON :
867 335 3248 | 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).

For more information on these and other counselors
Contact Donna Patrick Community Wellness Coordinator at 250 651 7900 ext 315

Aadéi Woosh Tu. aadi Yé "Gathering Place"



This year we received funds to do a facelift of our gathering place at the point. After our assessment of the site, we had many ideas for upgrading and enhancing it. We decided to add onto the fencing area for bear awareness and we added a gate for the additional safety of our children in the playground.

We hired youth Jarin Tizya and Levi Coleman for 9 weeks in the summer and working along with our fantastic O&M team they did a thorough job of painting and clearing the site. They also pulled stumps so the elders would be safe while walking along the trail. Our proud new edition to the site is our beautiful Pavilion or Gazebo. Our elders requested a roof over the fire so they could stay longer at the gatherings and be protected from the rain or hot sun. Robert Williams and his crew received the materials and erected it

We had a family who stayed out at the point for 10 days in the summer, their children loved it, they could swim, play in the sand box, and felt free. This is what children need, they need to be safe and free. A language group gathered here to learn and speak, and their children with them. All you could hear was laughter. The children were happy, the families were happy. When I see that, I know that good medicine is flowing to our people through our land.

Grandma Elisabeth Nyman talked about this spot being a very special and sacred gathering site. Our Tlingit people are moving forward in healthy and constructive ways. It's so lovely to see the area respected and treated with love. Families sit by the fire and look out onto the lake, eat and gather

This is what children need, they need to be safe and free.

within a few weeks. Outfitted with a new fire pit in the center, it is truly a delight to see this special area at the point. When our people do gather here, I hope they will feel proud about this beautiful new space.

together. This was our vision from the beginning. It started with a broken-down cabin and now we have a clean and inviting space to gather together.

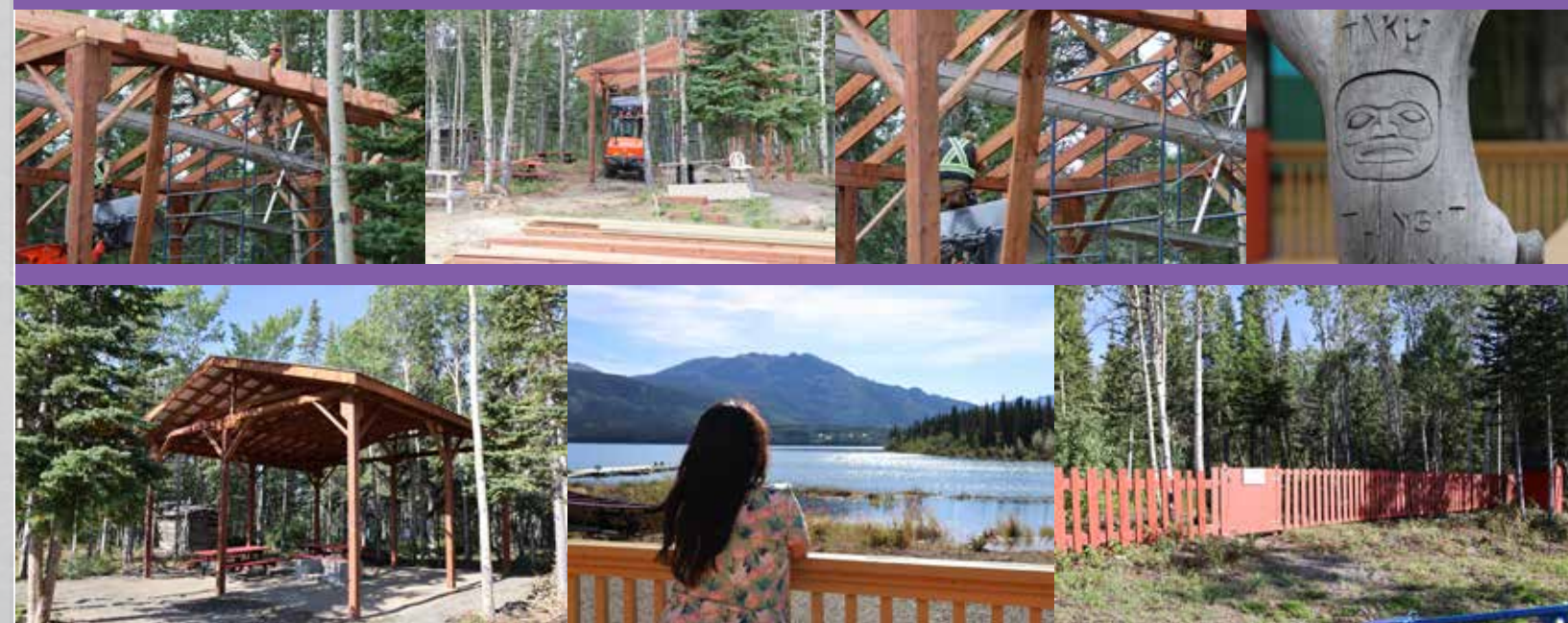
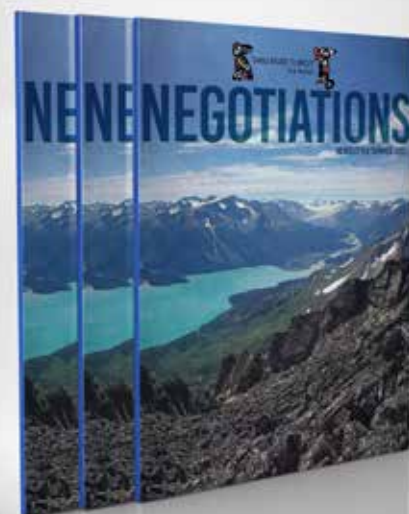
Donna Patrick
Community Wellness Coordinator

Negotiations Newsletters

From the TRTFN Governance department, our first edition of these printed Newsletters has been placed around Taku and Atlin common areas and posted on our website! We have also mailed copies to our citizens. Further smaller updates will be sent to TRTFN citizens mailboxes and email addresses throughout the fall/winter as things are moving and evolving quickly on many Negotiations files.

If you need to update your mailing or email information, please call the front desk at Head Offices 250 651 7900 or visit our www.trtfn.com main page and add your email to our mailing list.

Gunalcheésh
Chantelle Schultz Lead Negotiator





TAÁKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION



EVERY CHILD
MATTERS



JOB FAIR

OCT 4th 2022

1:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Taku River Tlingit First Nation Administration Building - Front Entrance

Taku River Tlingit First Nation invites everyone from the Atlin area to our Job Fair, drop in with your resume and see what we have to offer.
Join us for some homemade Bannok and a coffee.



Crow Clan Leader Vernon Williams, at Sandy Beach in Juneau Alaska

Photography by Manu Keggenhoff / Taku River Tlingit First Nation



Tlingit Family Learning Center

Jorge Llaca Buznego, PhD.
Education Manager

What a spectacular year this has been thus far. Our Tlingit Family Learning center (TFLC) has been a healthy and happy place for our young children to feel safe, learn and grow. They are cared for and taught each day by our dedicated staff.

We are so proud to say we have a language program for our young ones led by Brittany Wesley.

After a year of negotiations, the Northern lights college campus (NLC) is under the direction of the TFLC. We have the keys to the building, and a vision to offer programming to our community. We will keep you posted about programs that are coming up for the TRTFN/ NLC Campus.

We support Tlingit language initiatives and cultural learning that support the family at our facility, and we continue to plan and envision programming with organizers, teachers &

speakers. TFLC is excited to support The King Salmon culture camp happening in October organized by Wayne Carlick and Louise Gordon. This camp will offer programming and cultural knowledge for all at the beautifully renovated gathering place at the point.

Our relationship with the Atlin school continues to be a wonderful opportunity to financially support programming happening there. Programs and services that empower not just its Tlingit students but all the children of Atlin.

We are proud and dedicated to providing early childhood education to our kids here at TFLC, and it makes us happy to continue to support our little ones as they journey onward to the Atlin school to find their gifts and grow up. We are grateful to serve and be part of your family though this Learning Center.

Warmest regards for your fall seasons of harvest and thanksgiving.



Photography by Manu Keggenhoff / Taku River Tlingit First Nation



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



Van Transportation Service

SERVICE RUNS from Five Mile
& Back 3 runs per day

FIVE DROPS OFF POINTS:

1. Health Clinic
2. Post office
3. Food Basket
4. TRTFN Admin Building
5. ATELP

Monday through Friday,
except payday Friday

Start Date:
September 19
to March 31,
2023

VAN SCHEDULE

STOP 1 SLOKO COURT	PICK UPS	8:00 am		
	DROP OFFS			5:40 pm
STOP 2 TUTAN HIT	PICK UPS	8:10 am	12:30 pm	4:30 pm
	DROP OFFS	9:20 am	2:20 pm	5:35 pm
STOP 3 SHESLEY LANE	PICK UPS	8:15 am	12:35 pm	4:35 pm
	DROP OFFS	9:15 am	2:15 pm	5:30 pm
STOP 4 TRT ADMIN BLDG	PICK UPS	9:00 am	2:00 pm	5:15 pm
	DROP OFFS	8:30 am	12:50 pm	4:50 pm
STOP 5 ATELP	PICK UPS			5:00 pm
	DROP OFFS	8:45		



Taku River Tlingit First Nation & University of Victoria
Certificate of Indigenous Language Revitalization Program

CILR Project Coordinator and contact: Sandra Jack-Mirhashem

What is it?

The CILR is a one year full time Program which offers student enrollment for all 8 courses.

Level 1, 2 & 3 Tlingit Language;

3 language revitalization courses focusing on linguistics • social action • field methods for collecting data

2 courses focusing on Indigenous Language Dynamics & Shifts • Issues, Principles & Practices

Who Can Apply?

The CILR Program is a university certificate program that welcomes all learners regardless of background.

The program is looking for students who are passionate about the Tlingit language. Upon successful completion of the CILR, students can continue with higher level studies leading to a diploma or a Bachelor of Education degree in Indigenous Language Revitalization.

CILR will hone skillsets in First Nation language and culture revitalization & enrich your resume.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAM
And to download applications forms or view our powerpoint presentation
Visit our webpage at
<https://trtfn.com/departments/education>

Remembering *My Uncle Archie*

by Cyndi Knill
HR Coordinator



And as the leaves began to change in the fall of September 2020, my Uncle Archie said goodbye to his journey here. This loss was felt by many, including those who loved and knew him in his Atlin community.

Archie always said to me, "This community fits you, Cyndi." I told him I would give it a try one day and I did. I am happy to call Atlin home today. I spend time among Archie's many picture memories of Atlin. It is so wonderful to see them and think of him. Much of Archie's photography collection will be donated to archives in Yellowknife, the Atlin Historical Society, and many photos to the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.

I feel blessed that Archie brought me on this journey to Atlin and I have had the opportunity to join the team here at Taku River Tlingit First Nation government office, first in the Lands & Education Departments and now as HR Coordinator. I know he would be very pleased to see me working with the community he loved so much.

My name is Cyndi Knill, and this is a tribute to my Uncle Archie Knill.

Uncle Archie had been my superhero and a big influence on me for my whole life. My time here in Atlin wouldn't have come to be, hadn't it been for him drawing me here. He was beloved by this community. The first time Archie came to Atlin was in the 1960's, he came here hiking. Archie spent 25 years working in the Artic in early oil exploration. He looked at a few places to retire and decided on Atlin because he loved it here.

For 33 years after his retirement and move to Atlin, he could be seen with camera in hand. Out at every event, Archie would take pictures. Beautiful captures of the land, people and the celebrations.

And the seasons changed. Springs brought crocuses to the warm sunny mountain sides and summers bought tourists to the Atlin Music festival. Fall bought chilly fire pit get together, and in the winter, cozy conversations and moments to look over the beautiful pictures taken and looking forward to doing it all again the following year.

In the summer of 2020, I journeyed to Atlin from Vancouver Island for 9 weeks to support my then 87-year-old uncle Archie Knill. Though he was slowing down, he was still full of his normal trouble. When my 9 weeks were up, he was happy to travel back to Nanaimo with me because the winters were becoming too much for him at that point. Being his independent self, we got him his own one-bedroom apartment in Nanaimo. It was such a blessing to have been able to spend that time with him.

Be passionate in all the things you do and in all ways be kind.



Pictures from Atlin Music Festival 2011 Taken by Archie Knill



Adäka Festival 2022

This year's Adäka festival featured our very own TRTFN Master Carver Wayne Carlick and his beautiful wife Deb Michel facilitating workshops in Cedar Weaving/Head Bands & Drum Making 18" or 20". They also performed with our Taku Kwaan Dance group in the Longhouse main stage.

Other members of our community including Joanne Williams facilitated a workshop in Bentwood Box making, and Rhoda Merkel facilitated workshops in Bead Painting on Canvas and Watercolor Pencil on Canvas/My Totem Story. So many wonderful and talented artisans came together to share their traditional gifts and talents with everyone.

The 2022 Adäka Cultural Festival took place on June 29 to July 5, 2022, at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. Our Taku Kwaan (People of the Taku) traditional dance group of the Taku River performed. Taku Kwaan gave it's first public performance in 2006 and has been performing regularly at other celebrations, festivals and ceremonies. Our dance group shared their Tlingit identity and culture at Adäka again this year.

The Yukon has a diverse mix of history and culture and is home to 14 First Nations. While we share many common traditions, each First Nation has its own special places and voices. We are proud of who we are, and always welcome the opportunity to share our culture with you.

Photography by Manu Keggenhoff / Taku River Tlingit First Nation



A Mother's Love by Rachael Alexander Housing Coordinator

My son Jonathan passed away on the 16th of July 2022. That statement is hard to say. My precious boy fought addictions from a young age until his heart gave up the fight and he went to sleep. No one ever wants to be part of this club, but even with the signs ahead of me, you can never fully prepare for this overwhelming sense of sadness and loss. I don't know where I am finding the strength each day, but I use every ounce of it to be kind to myself and honor my son's memory.

Even though he was struggling in his life, Jon was always helping somebody. He left this amazing legacy. He would see struggling people in his community also fighting addictions and would offer his time and strength for them. Taking them for coffee or supporting them in meetings. When he passed away, I counted over 40 comments and messages that said, "I'm alive because of your son." Or "I have a family and a child now, thanks to Jon!" or "I'm getting married and I'm here because of your son Jon."

Jon never bragged or told anybody how he helped people, but at his memorial service there were people there sobbing who I didn't know. I realized then that it was his AA family who had a deep connection with him and loved him. His siblings and I didn't understand, and in some ways, we envied that connection. We understood though, that he was loved by so many people, who shared his similar struggle and were supported and loved by him.

When Jon was 2 years old, he broke his arm. My husband and I had him sleep between us so he wouldn't bend it or hurt it in his sleep. As he drifted off to sleep, I found that I couldn't move my own arm, it ached and ached, and no matter what I did, I couldn't, for the life of me, understand why. I called my mom and told her what had happened. I said, "Mom it feels like my arm is broken!" My mom said, "Rachael, don't take anything for the pain, because you will give it back to him, Jon can't handle the pain so he gave it to you so he could sleep." I said, "Yeah, I can do that." All night I lay and supported my arm and watched him sleep peacefully. Feeling so close to him and knowing I was helping carry his pain.

The day Jon passed away, before I knew he was gone, waves of uneasiness that no words could

describe came over me. The unfamiliar sensation flowed through my body and landed on a bone in my arm that started aching. The pain would not go away. I grabbed the phone in my apartment and took it back to bed with me, just in case I was having a medical incident. I thought, "What is happening to me?" Then it dawned on me, this is the same bone that Jon broke when he was a little boy. So, as I did, when he was little, I carried the pain, and I drifted off to sleep. Soon after, the phone rang, it was my youngest daughter, she could barely choke out the words. And I knew, the pain I felt, the sensation I had, was my son leaving, saying goodbye to me and this journey.

I've been asked, how do you cope with this? My answer is always the same. My grief is real, my pain is real. I loved my son with my whole heart. I would give anything for him to be here with me, close to me. I did all I could while he was alive. My way of coping in this way doesn't mean I don't care. I have learned that you cannot blame anyone for the passing of a loved one. When it's their time to go, it's their time. You may change the location, but you cannot change the outcome. We have to accept that our adult children make choices that are out of our control. I have come to acknowledge, in a gentle and honest way, that it was his time to go. This has been the most important piece for my healing. I believe that we choose our path before we come here. This was Jon's exit point.

I hold space for my grief, I cry when I need to, and I listen to my body and honor the moments of sadness during the day. I am so grateful for Atlin, this beautiful land that holds so much beauty and medicine for my healing. Just being able to look out at the lake at work has been so therapeutic.

Jon left two little boys when he passed a one-year-old and a 3-year-old. My family supported me to go home and send him off. It allowed me time to be with my other kids and my grandchildren. I'm so grateful for all the support that was given to me.

For those struggling with addictions or loss reading this, please know that you are not alone. You can find the strength you need as I did. Go to the land for healing, acknowledge your pain and don't hesitate to reach out for support. And above all know that you are loved.

The TRTFN Warm Springs

by Chantelle Schultz
TRTFN Lead Negotiator

TRTFN celebrated the purchase and return of sacred healing areas traditionally used by Tlingit people for gathering, harvesting, sharing of healing knowledge, and stewardship of special and sensitive ecosystems.

The Warm Springs have now moved back into Tlingit protectorship roles after many decades of separation from the unique area and its healing qualities.

TRTFN thanks Ed Wolf and his family, the former owner, who were so dedicated to preserving and honoring the Tlingit way of life over the decades, by holding the lands free from commercial enterprise. Gunalchéesh, to Stephen Badhwar and his family, and David Thorn, the land users and residents who for 30 years honored the land, and further upheld Tlingit self-determination.

Gunalchéesh to all who helped this historic moment occur, and to those who celebrated the day with us under the beautiful Taku skies.



TRTFN at the Warm Springs with Minister Patty Hajdu

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path and be supported to do the work that my heart truly desires to do. At times we get stuck, stuck in our work, caught in a wheel that keeps turning and it seems to never stop. It takes away your peace and you get dizzy, turned around. You begin to lose sight of your true calling.

It's such a treat not to have to rush, to serve on my terms and at my own pace.

I struggle with smoking, but the only way that I ever quit is when I go out onto the land. Something happens out there. It cleanses me to be camped by a creek with my book and pillow. Everything feels complete. I am the Land. I have grown up being part of the land. To be one with it has brought me a sense of peace.

I am the Land

by Gretta Thorlakson

Sometimes in the summertime, I am contracted to work in the mining camps as a cook. This year I chose to work out on the land as a food fish Elder in camp. It was an extraordinary experience; I gained my sanity back. Previously to heading out, my spirit and energy was low, but by the second day there, I was re-energized and didn't want to go home.

We went to Inklin and set nets and brought back Salmon eggs for the Elders. I'd never been there before. My Dad would spend time there trapping when we were younger. I'd heard so much about it throughout my life. I didn't realize that the river was so big! It was so healing and enlightening to learn about and see that part of our land.

My desire is to bring my gifts to my people on the land. It's nice to be able to choose my

We need to see the beauty around us, immersing ourselves and observing every natural thing. Going with the flow of the river and taking deep cleansing drinks of the air. Instead of focusing always on what needs to be done, rather, observe and enjoy and be one with. I have a wall tent and when it rains I sleep so well. Listening to the rain fall on the tent, sweet drops of heavenly music singing me to sleep.

There have been so many ups and downs in my world this year, and the land has served to replenish my spirit and my soul.

I'm looking forward to getting a moose this year and drying meat. My sister and I will set nets and dry fish like we did when we were kids. In the winter, we will sit and enjoy it together.



Photography by Rebecca Law / Taku River Tlingit First Nation





2022 Juneau Celebration

Photography by Manu Keggenhoff / Taku River Tlingit First Nation

