

TAKU



Strength & Courage



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

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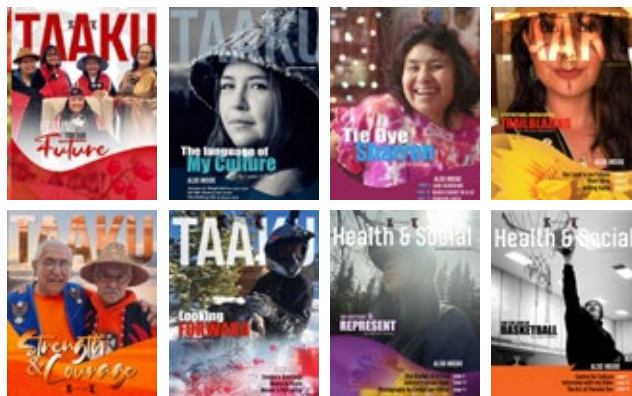
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Jimik (Charmaine Thom) **TRTFN SPOKESPERSON**

I would like to acknowledge our Nation for the wonderful work we continue to do in our healing journeys. The voices of those who are willing to share their stories in this publication and those who share their gifts in other ways within our community. These serve a healing, supportive purpose as we journey forward with a collective strength.

There are many heavy issues weighing on our hearts. We all feel the weight of this pandemic, the residential school findings, the opioid crisis plaguing our communities and stealing our young people, addiction, and isolation. Our hearts are full and yearn for a rest from our worries. We want to continue this year to provide the supports needed for all our citizens in a meaningful way.

We are thankful that Dr Vickers and her team of Elders, who did a tremendous job on their last visit, will come again to offer more tools and skills for healing from our residential school experiences and other traumas. It is important that everyone feels seen and heard.

We begin this year by uplifting our Tlingit values and traditions, by getting out on the land and doing things differently than we did before. Treatment centers were great at one time, but now we must do on the land living that would support the after care for those who need it. It doesn't help to have a pandemic on top of trying to heal and

connect, especially in the dark and cold months of the year.

My heart goes out to our neighboring nation of CTFN who lost 3 of their young community members to the opioid crisis recently. Our community is just as vulnerable, and we are not blind to this fact. We are working as hard and as fast as we can to find supports that are needed. These issues require that we roll up our sleeves and come up with strategic plans on how we will protect and support our community. They are not going unnoticed; we acknowledge them, and we are working for you.

We had very positive feedback from the JCM. I am grateful that it went well. I am honored to serve the people. For those who need to be heard, I have an open-door policy, so please call on me anytime, I will do the best I can to support you.

To all our citizens and community members that have endured the Residential schooling, those that have had losses throughout the pandemic and to those that are struggling with addiction. I want to uplift you and give you praise for getting up in the morning and facing the world. Through the dark times, when you feel like you can't do one more thing, you still find the energy to do one more thing. That energy comes from Creator and our ancestors. You are here for a reason; every day is a gift from the Creator. Some people are born knowing exactly what their gift is, and for some of us more time is needed to explore and find it. No matter what, know that you have a place within our Nation to serve and grow and we will support you wherever you are at.



Our Values

by Charles Pugh TRTFN CAO

The values and teachings of the Elders that have been passed down to us are valuable. These values teach us everything we need to know about how to interact with the natural world around us and how to share that knowledge with others.

In this time, where many worry about the economy and the environment, we can role model sustainability and show how satisfied we can be with less just by being thankful for what we have been given naturally by Mother Earth. These are the values of our Elders.

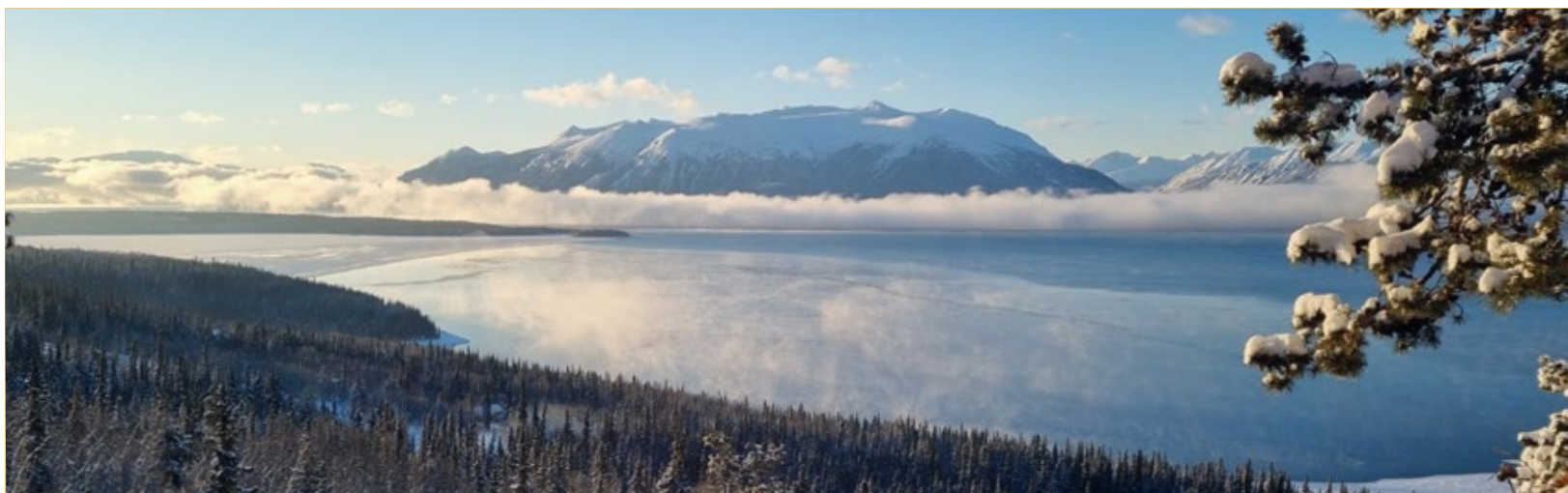
Our water and mountains, the medicines from the land and its creatures, we learn from these how to share and care for each other. Live symbiotically with the

environment and respect life. In a world where there is so much competition to acquire assets, this value is rich and worth teaching.

Let us reflect on what we have and the values that have been passed on to us. Treasure every moment and spend more time connecting to nature and those who we care about, our families.

Reach inwards to what we have instead of always looking outwards to what we don't have. Our Nation is strong and we have much to value.

I wish you all a healthy and happy New year.





Áa Tlein Lake from the summit of Dliwoowoo Shaa (The Cathedral -Mountain that shines, the fair mountain)

Photography by Brent Law

To find more place names in the TRTFN Territory please visit <https://trt.geolive.ca/map.html>



Land Water Air

Rodger Thorlakson TRTFN Lands & Resources Manager

The Taku River Tlingit have been stewards of the land since time immemorial and continue to be so today. The TRTFN Wildlife Division works within Lands and Resources and focuses on the responsible and respectful stewardship of wildlife and ecosystems in TRTFN traditional Territory.

To learn more about the work that we do in Lands Engagement, Heritage, Fisheries, Mining, Wildlife and TIPCA Tlatsini Initiative please visit our page on the TRTFN Website for our individual newsletters and documents.

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

Haa Aaní Tulatín



We are watching our land
Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Land Guardian Program



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

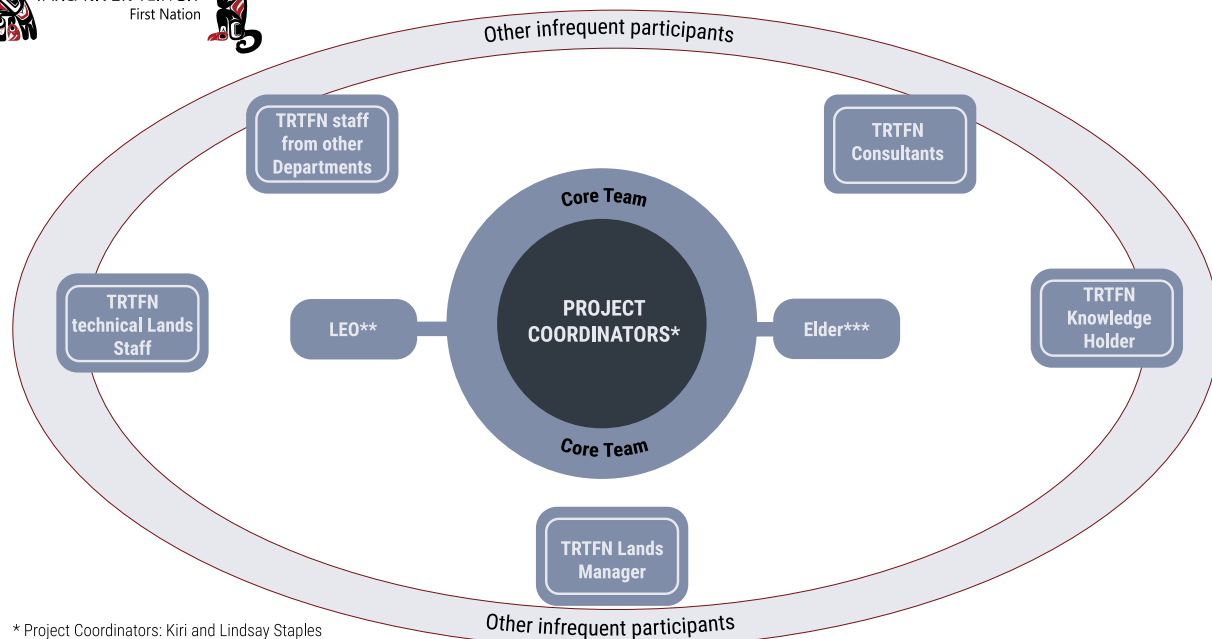
YOUTH LAND GUARDIAN

The Haa Aaní Tulatín - Land Guardian Program is looking for a part-time youth Land Guardian between now and end of March. Email landguardian.coord@gov.trtfn.com or call 7900 ext. 206 to apply!

TRTFN Project Review Group



TRTFN Lands Project Review Group (PRG)- Structure



* Project Coordinators: Kiri and Lindsay Staples
 ** LEO: TRTFN Lands Engagement Officer, Christine Ziegler
 *** Elder: Allan Carlick

Tlinigt Homeland Energy Limited Partnership (THELP) is a 100 % TRTFN-owned company and the proponent of the Atlin Hydro Expansion Project (AHEP). THELP submitted the project application called the Clean Energy Development Plan (CEDP) to BC and TRTFN Lands earlier this year, and both parties recently and mutually agreed that the plan is ready to be reviewed in detail.

TRTFN Lands is bringing together a small group to support this review. It is called the Project Review Group (PRG). The core of the PRG consists of the two project coordinators, Kiri and Lindsay Staples, who are both Whitehorse-based consultants, TRTFN Lands Engagement Officer Christine Ziegler, and Allan Carlick, the TRTFN Elder appointed at the Elders meeting a few months ago.



Other ad hoc participants from TRTFN Government will join the PRG to review specific sections. For instance, for terrestrial and wildlife values, the TRTFN Wildlife Coordinator, Ryan LaPointe, is called upon. For concerns surrounding fish and aquatic habitat, Mark Connor, TRTFN Fisheries Steward, is supporting the review. The main role of the PRG is to review the CEDP and provide advice to TRTFN authorities on the various matters and related issues addressed in the proposed project.

For example, these include project impacts that could be positive or negative on fish and wildlife, TRT land use, heritage sites, and social, cultural and economic conditions. How these impacts and benefits are managed is an important part of the review. Further, the PRG will attend engagement sessions hosted by THELP, but will also hold its own engagement sessions with TRTFN leadership and community members in the up-coming months, so stay tuned!

The Project Review Group. From left to right: Lindsay Staples, Kiri Staples, Christine Ziegler. TRTFN Elder Allan Carlick could not attend due to health.



Governance

by Louise Gordon Manager

So much has been accomplished in the past and present and it is important to reflect on what we have accomplished to ensure we maximize our short- and long-term interests as mandated by our community. We had a successful Special Joint Clan Meeting as the year ended. 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. We successfully completed genealogy maps for TRTFN families. We are working to secure the best people to lead and work on the detailed day to day work needed to make progress on and secure a meaningful plan for completing steps to successfully negotiate a Self-Government Agreement through the New Treaty process.

It is truly an honor to continue to work for the Taku River Tlingit First Nation as Governance Manager as we move forward on our road to Self-Government. I look forward to witnessing how the next year unfolds as we set up TRTFN's internal and external offices in the new year.

Gunalcheesh.

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

TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION CONSTITUTION ACT, 1993





Latséeni

Daakahidi

'House of Strength'



Anne Campbell Manager

Community service work takes on many roles and encompasses many skills and abilities. Look at the variety of work of the Latseeni Daakahidi department for example – organizing events, caring for elders, art and media production, writing, teaching, counseling, advocating, policy writing and analysis, working with medicinal plants, growing gardens, cooking, researching, conducting Tlingit ceremonies, convening healing circles, engaging with knowledge holders, assisting neighbours and families in crisis, helping people to navigate complicated problems and generally working towards health and wellbeing in our community.

that you want to help improve the lives of your fellow community members.

Work BC advises that jobs in the health and social service fields will increase dramatically over the next 20 years.

We can see that our own community is growing and our demographics changing. Young families wishing to raise children in our quiet, safe, and beautiful community close to the land and close to family and community. Many of us aging and wishing to live out our lives here in our homes. This means that skilled workers are required in many areas – early childhood education, elder care, group home supervisors, cooks, caregivers, nurses, aides, lawyers, and accountants. We also need infrastructure specialists to build and operate our hydro, water, and wastewater plants, develop housing and design and build community buildings.

Along with aptitude and ability, education and training is key to enjoying work in these rewarding careers.

Working In And For Our Community

We work for our community because we want to help others. Whether one is helping a family to receive government assistance or working to prevent an epidemic as a public health worker, the common thread is

Using the social work field as an example, consider that a social work degree can lead to work as a therapist, policy analyst, health advocate, trainer, facilitator, court liaison, special needs teacher, department manager and even lead treaty negotiator.



Tlingit Youth Max Wesley- Miniture Pottery Workshop

Photo Credit: Rebecca Law

You can use your interests and strengths to fit your job. This work not only has significant impacts for those you help, but it also helps you develop yourself as you work with others.

If you are curious about the possibilities there are many training and educational programs and resources to explore how your particular aptitude and skills can be utilized. Check out college and university websites and feel free to talk to TRTFN staff about their education and how they prepared for their positions. Also talk with your Education Manager Jorge at the TFLC, or your favourite advisor. Social work is only a small example of what is possible. There are now, and will be in the future, many opportunities and ways to work and serve your community. It is never too late to learn, develop new skills and seek opportunities.

The TRTFN has many open positions but we don't have applicants. If you are interested, but not sure you qualify, please speak to a manager, CAO Charles Pugh, or Jean Paul Khayat our HR coordinator.






Thank you to our dedicated staff and many volunteers who continue to serve the Nation above and beyond. Gunalcheesh.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

S'EEK DÍSI

Black Bear month; when the cubs are born

FEB 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 Kemppling 250 651 7739 ext 300		1 1-4p Drop in Center Bead a piece for an orange touque with Deb AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	2	3	4 OFFICES CLOSED	5
	7 ELDERS LUNCH After Lunch Activities at Drop in Center: Exercise or Games	8 1-4p Drop in Center Bead a piece for an orange touque with Deb AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	9 Culture Center 9am - 4pm	10 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	11	
	14 ELDERS LUNCH After Lunch Activities at Drop in Center: Exercise or Games	15 1-4p Drop in Center Bead a piece for an orange touque with Deb AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	16 Culture Center 9am - 4pm	17 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	18 OFFICES CLOSED	
	21 FAMILY DAY	22 1-4p Drop in Center Bead a piece for an orange touque with Deb AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	23 Culture Center 9am - 4pm	24 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture		26
	28		29 Culture Center 9am - 4pm	30 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	OFFICES CLOSED	

CALENDAR of EVENTS

HÉEN TAANÁX KAYAANÍ DÍSI

Month when land plants begin to bud and sprout

March 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 Kempling 250 651 7739 ext 300		1 1-4p Drop in Center Bead a piece for an orange touque with Deb AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	2 Culture Center 9am - 4pm	3 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	4	5
6 	7 Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	8 1-4p Drop in Center Bead a piece for an orange touque with Deb AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	9  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	10 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	11 OFFICES CLOSED	12 
13 	14 Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	15 1-4p Drop in Center Bead a piece for an orange touque with Deb AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	16  Culture Center 9am - 4pm	17 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	18	19 
SPRING BREAK						
20 	21 Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	22 1-4p Drop in Center Bead a piece for an orange touque with Deb AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	23 Culture Center 9am - 4pm	24 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	25 OFFICES CLOSED	26 
SPRING BREAK						
27 	28 Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	29 1-4p Drop in Center Bead a piece for an orange touque with Deb AA Meetings Culture Center 7:30 pm	30 Culture Center 9am - 4pm	31 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture		

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

CALENDAR of EVENTS AT GADAXIT YINAA DÍSI

Month before the animals give birth

APRIL 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			Culture Center 9am - 4pm	Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	1	2
3 	4	5	6 	7 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	8 OFFICES CLOSED	9 
10 	11	12 	13 	14 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	15 	16 GOOD FRIDAY
17 	18 EASTER MONDAY	19	20 	21 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	22 OFFICES CLOSED	23
24	25 	26	27 	28 Lingít language Class 9am-5pm @ Centre for Culture	29	30 

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

You can make it to the *Other Side*

by Ruth Jack



My clan is Dog Salmon, Jimmy & Elisabeth Ward were my parents. My father was a guide outfitter for many years here in Áa Tlein. He worked for the Edzerza family.

I was 24 years old when I lost my parents tragically on Áa Tlein Lake. It was 30 years ago but I still remember. I remember my mum was happy, jolly, always thinking of other people. My sisters and I all look much like my mum. I look into the mirror and see her sometimes. I dress my hair up like hers at times. She taught us how to do life. How to cook, bake, sew and many things.

We grew up in Áa Tlein, I remember swinging on curtains in our old house. There was a bay window that was a perfect play ground for us kids. When I was very young, I could see the auras around people, the vibrant ray of colorful energy that flows around living things. When the aura was thick I knew that that person was very blessed and kind and good.

My mother went to residential school, she told me some of the terrible things that happened and all I could do was cry. My siblings and I were also taken. When I returned home, I couldn't see auras anymore. I stood on a hill, and decided that I needed to connect and find my relations.

When I was 19 a woman approached me in the street and said to me, "Why are you so mean?" I was so surprised and

didn't know what she meant. This upset me greatly and I became dizzy with the information. I think it caused the aneurism that I had soon after. She was the last person that I remember talking to before it happened. Drawing my attention to a way that I was being that I wasn't aware of. I became more aware of things I wasn't before after that. I guess it takes one person to tell you the truth about yourself, and help you turn your life around.

I married into the Jack family, my mother-in-law Evelyn was a wonderful woman. She taught me many things about my culture. How to skin and tan hides, berry picking, putting away the moose. She was a good listener and she taught me how to survive when I was out on the lake and the land. What berries and mushrooms to pick and what not to pick.

I just celebrated my 61 birthday. I had visions of what I went through in life, from residential school to the tragic loss of parents, siblings, and my son. I am grateful that I managed to stay sober throughout most of these. After trying alcohol after my parents passed, I knew it was not helping.

Go through the pain, you will make it out the other side and everything will be ok.



O&M and CAPITAL

Andy Carlick & Moses Track

Happy New Year to you all!

We ended 2021 in the finishing stages of the building process of our 4 houses. These units are outfitted with woodstoves as a backup for heat in the cold winter months.

Snow fall this season has been a bit of a challenge, but we have kept on top of the weather as best we can. We do our best to keep our people warm, making sure their doors and windows aren't drafting. As the temperatures change, many things can change with it. So we continue to ask that our citizens let us know when things break or need fixing in your homes.

We understand the difficulties that the power outages bring. Only a few of our units have an actual wood stove inside, which would allow some comfort if the power goes out. The rest of our units unfortunately are dependant on electricity. We are working, through emergency management to solve these issues for our citizens as we move forward. Creating a safe and secure living situation for our people continues to be our priority.

Our hope for the future is to build a community facility that is outfitted with a backup generator that can serve as a gathering place to provide warmth and food to our people in emergency situations.

We continue to ask our citizens to clear their yards to allow our services to access your units safely without the risk of damaging any of your belongings. Also for the safety of our kids, playing around vehicles that are propped up on blocks is

dangerous, kids can get trapped inside or under old vehicles. Please consider securing, moving or discarding your old vehicles to avoid any accidents to yourself or your families.

We appreciate our workers in our department for all their hard work and dedication to their jobs and the projects that we do. We have many positives things happening this New Year, lots of opportunities for work and developing skills in many jobs. Please connect with us at O&M for more information on how you can help out.

We create this beautiful community together and we are so grateful for everyone's contribution to making it a safe and happy place to live, create and grow.

**We create this
beautiful community
together.**



Welcome our *New Employees*

Welcome Loretta Elias Executive Assistant to the Capital Manager



Please join me to welcome Loretta Elias as our Executive Assistant to the Capital Manager, starting January 17th.

Loretta has vast administrative & executive support experience with various First Nations working in the Nunavut, BC, and NWT.

Welcome Loretta to TRTFN!



Welcome Mary Walsh as the new Family Support worker

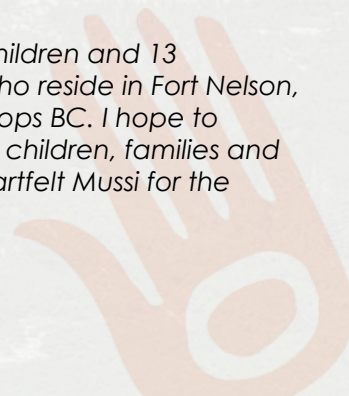


At the Ishtar Women's Resource Society. Mary has a number of degrees and certificate, notably Aboriginal Trauma Certificate as well as an Aboriginal Addictions Services Diploma, among others. Her presence will certainly enhance the services provided by our "Latseeni Daakahidi" Department. She will start her new role January 10th.

"I am from the Nadleh Whitten First Nation. Frog Clan of the Carrier Sekani (People of the Rock). I'm very excited about being here in this beautiful place to be of service to the Trtfn Citizens. I

sincerely hope to connect to the Elders, Matriarchs and community members and to gladly fulfill my role as a Family Support Worker.

I have 5 grown children and 13 grandchildren, who reside in Fort Nelson, Sicamous, Kamloops BC. I hope to connect with the children, families and to extend my heartfelt Mussi for the warm welcome."



Welcome Beatrice Ufitingabire as the new Accounts Payable Clerk



Beatrice is currently enrolled in the Yukon University in a Master of Public Administration, as well as in the US-CPA program is a graduate from the Niagara University in New-York, with a Bachelor degree in Business accounting.

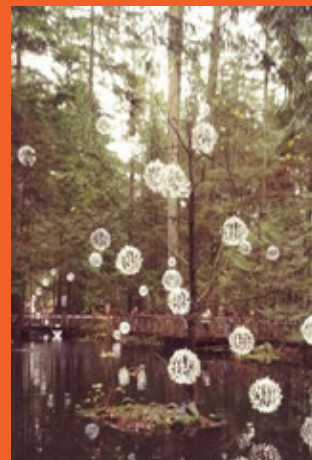
She has worked with a variety of governmental and non-profit organizations, both in Canada and internationally.





Trip to Vancouver with our young people 2021







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 great granddaughters now. It is such a joy to have them around me and to be a part of their lives. 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 earaches 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.





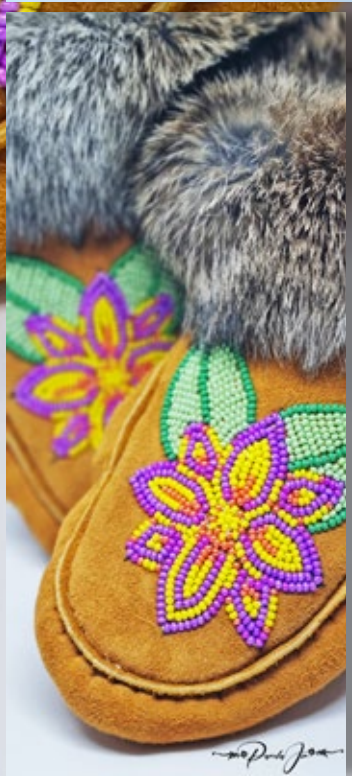
The Art of *Pamela Jim*



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

867-332-2166 cell
250-651-7742 home
pamelaspassioninaction@gmail.com

Ax xixch' hidi





Wellness

by Donna Patrick Wellness Coordinator

Happy New Year community. Teamwork has helped us through another difficult year of Covid.

AA Meetings

AA meetings are happening on Tuesday nights at 7:30 at Tutan Hit building or Culture Center with elder Sylvester Jack. If you are interested in attending drug and alcohol treatment, my door is open and I am a phone call away.

If you already attended a six-week A/D program and need a refresher there are some one-week programs or ten-day programs available throughout the year. You can sign up by filling out an application.

Medicine Wheel

Medicine Wheel or Wellness Wheels are available for helping to keep your life in balance. I have some available and can assist you in filling it out. It is another tool to support you in wellness and its fun to see weekly progress.

Living the Sacred Laws.

These laws are truth, honesty, courage, love, humility, respect, wisdom, and knowledge. If you are feeling out of balance, then it's time to recalibrate and adjust yourself by living these laws. The other side of these sacred laws is fear. To change fear-based thinking from negative to positive you must practice the sacred laws every minute, hour, and day of the year. You must be willing to let go of the fear in your thoughts and words you use every day. It takes time and practice.

This is winter dance season.

It's time to share your gift of song and dance. This is story telling season. Teach the young ones, they are watching, and they are hungry so feed their spirit with culture and knowledge. This is a New Year.

Have you set some professional goals? Do you have a current resume?

What kind of employment or job would you like to pursue? Would you like to make application for post- secondary funding for schooling? Contact TFLC.

Have you set some cultural goals to feed your spirit?

Who are you? What does your Tlingit name mean and where does it come from? What are your stories of origin? Are you learning the Tlingit songs? Do you have a drum or rattle? Do you have regalia? How do you prepare yourself to pray, sing, drum or fast? Cultural Center is open and it's a good place to start.

Have you set some personal goals?

personal goals such as learn more about yourself, learn more culture, be kind, be generous, be happy, pay down the debt? Learn your family tree. Write out your family tree, write out all the Tlingit names in your family tree. Learn some new healthy recipes. Carve something new. Sew some regalia. There is lots to do during these long winter nights.



I gu.aa yax x'wán

Have strength and Courage

Photo Credit: Manu Keggenhoff



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.



Happy New Year to our Tlingit relatives! In honour of the Tlingit language and way of life, TRTFN Education Department is accepting enrollment into the Certificate of Indigenous Language Revitalization (CILR) program.

Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) Education Department accessed funding in 2021 to work in partnership with University of Victoria (UVIC) to offer Tlingit citizens the opportunity to enroll into a one-year CILR program. All the course work is fully credited by UVic, and students can continue with higher level studies leading to a diploma or a degree.

There are potential career opportunities for culture and language teachers or instructors in various workplaces in Yukon or Northern BC. TRTFN Education Department encourages Tlingit citizens to enrolling into the CILR program.

Both UVIC and TRTFN are estimating that the first class/es will begin sometime in March 2022 and the course work is anticipated to finish within a year. The program scheduling will be formalized early in the New Year and updates will be mailed.

If you are interested in the CILR program offering please contact the CILR Project Coordinator.

Gunalcheesh for your interest in this academic certificate opportunity.

**Sandra Jack-Mirhashem, CILR Project Coordinator;
TRTFN Education Department
Email: CILRCoordinator@gov.trtfn.com
Phone: 250 651 2239 or 403 771 1543 (message)**



X'atulitseen Haa Yatx'i

Children are important/precious to us

Photo Credit: Manu Keggenhoff

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
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
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
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
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



Sh y·a awudanèixíi

Honored people. Noble people

Photo Credit: Manu Keggenhoff

The box of Knowledge

Wayne Carlick Cultural Coordinator

We smudge and pray for all our people all who suffered and continue to fight for our Language to be strong with our people.

We have prepared the lesson's material that we call **the box of Knowledge** for the Lingit language lessons coming up on February 10 2022 and every Thursday till May 19 9am-5pm at the Centre for Culture.

Email me if you are interested in learning this incredible language.

Gunalcheesh

Email: wayne.carlick@gmail.com
or call 250-651-7449



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**



Richard Carlick A World Traveler

I loved to build roads. Working on heavy equipment was something that I enjoyed. I started driving trucks and running the loader, running CAT and graders. I felt powerful and in control. Sometimes it was dangerous, but I did it.

I was also making good money. You might laugh when I tell you how much I made, but back then before inflation, it was good money. I made \$2 an hour, that was a lot of money back then! When I started making \$2.50 an hour, I felt like I was on top of the world. As a young man I worked for General Enterprises, it was a good outfit to work for. Building highways and roadways as far north as Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. I was even asked to drive the CAT out on the ocean on an ice road to a small island off the coast of Tuk. It was a bit sketchy but I did it. I built the road to Skagway and the Coquihalla Highway.

I was good at my work, so they sent me to South Africa, Egypt and all around the Mediterranean. I took the CAT right to France and England and went right up a back way to Russia. It was exciting being a young Tlingit man traveling the world. I was treated very well. I remember I got to Russia in the fall, in a small farming village on the border. The villagers were just beginning to harvest, they butchered a sheep and roasted it, just the way I liked it. The people there fed me good!

They had little log houses that reminded me of the town in Champagne. I thought I was back home again. One of the men asked me if I would stay in one of the little cabins. "Oh Boy!" I said "You gave me the best place to live." I worked my way with the CAT right to Moscow by the Kremlin. And I made my way back. The company even shipped me down to the South Pole to work; I built an airport down there for the US Army.

I built so many roads! I saw the Pyramids and beautiful lakes and monuments. I crossed oceans and saw the world. I don't know why they picked me, but they did and I feel so happy to have lived such an exciting life doing a job I loved.





Tlingit Youth Izaiah Carlick - Engineering Project



Khastin's

Healing Journey

Sometimes I think things in life alter you to the core. Losing a child is one of them. Trauma and tragedy come in all forms. We try to heal, find a way through the pain of grief, pick up the pieces and move on. However, this kind of loss changes you. I never ever fathomed anything like this would ever happen. We are all provided gifts by creator, a purpose that we figure out at some point in our life, so that we can be of service to others. My gift is to heal, like my mother. However, when tragedy strikes, how does a healer find healing for herself?

After the loss of a child, you are altered. The only path forward is to figure out who you are now. That is where I am at. I daily seek my truth and speak my truth without judgments. I hold space for my grief and my happiness and I am gentle to myself. At any given time of day or night, a wave of sadness can rest on me, and I just break. In the past, I believed that breaking down and crying in public was improper. I would

not be gentle with myself. I would say, "for crying out loud Yvonne, this is not the time or place for this!" Now I say, "I lost my son, in this moment I feel overwhelmed, I need space and time to let my tears flow, I am allowing myself the space to feel and remember, and I am not ashamed." And that is where I am at right now.

The worst thing that we can do is to carry shame or try to swallow it down. Allowing yourself to feel, to grieve is part of our healing journey. It's ok to let people know where you are at and what you are able or not able to do. I have always been present for my family, but I've found that now, being honest means sometimes saying that I don't have what it takes to be present in some moments. I thank God for my family, they were there to support my daughters and I whenever we needed someone close.

When my mother passed away, I wasn't aware that I didn't know how to process grief and loss. So, for many years I just ran from it. Some people escape like I did, and others lose themselves in other addictions. But make no mistake, it's an escape. To recognize this, to make a conscious choice to stay present, whatever that means, is the first step to our healing. For many years during my life, when something hurt or if I was afraid, the first thing I did was close my eyes from it, shield my face from it, and I stayed like that, frozen. That was the way I coped. My daughter must have been 9, when she said one day; "Mum, sometimes I look at you and I know you're not there." It was a wake-up call for me, and I worked on it. I began saying to myself when I felt afraid, "Yvonne, Eyes Open!" That was the way I continued to work on creating a shift in my thinking.

I remember my mother, Evelyn; she was a traditional healer on the reserve. She sat and listened and loved everyone. She counseled people and opened her door to those who



needed it. I was very young, and I would get annoyed at mum, because she would always have people in the house. Finally, one day I said, "Mum, do what you have to do, but could you just keep your hippy friends to yourself, Lol" I realized later that she refused to turn anyone away, for fear that she might lose them. It was a burden she carried close to her heart. She had a passion for working with youth, and called the group she created, Round Robin Healing Circle. She was a huge part of their lives.

I was raised in a household with a Matriarch who healed and cared for her people. Therefore, I am called to do it today. The work I do requires so much responsibility. It's spiritual work and it requires respect, time, and dedication. When Creator decides that things are going to happen, it's going to happen no matter what. After my mum passed, she came to me in a dream one night; she showed me the place that would now be my healing camp. We laughed together. Since that night, the journey to my healing camp Xhastin's Healing Journey was paved with amazing opportunities.

"Keep Your Eyes Open."

So many doors opened before me. It was truly gifted. The land that my camp is on is powerful; the groups that use it for healing come to appreciate it as a powerful spiritual ground that connects to ancestors that have used it in the past. The shifts in energy and ancestral connections are felt by the people who use it for healing.

In the *Calls To Action* document, it states that if there is any healing that needs to be done, it is best managed by Aboriginal people and communities. I am so honoured to be a part of the work that allows our people to find healing on the land, through mentorship and finding their gifts. Thanks to my mum, I have the space and thanks to her teaching and mentorship, I can and will do the work.

Do not let fear rob you of your life. Keep your eyes open.





Courage

James Williams (Wolf)

I am excited to go to Rome. I am not sure if we will communicate directly with The Pope or just his representatives, but the opportunity to share my peoples residential school experiences to those that need to hear it is important to me. My personal experience at the school and the experiences of my family and community is real. The initial finding of the 215 children in Kamloops, unearthed the pain inside me, and reminded us again how real it was. Those institutions sought to destroy the light in us. They took our voice and our language from us. It took me years to learn how to love again, how to trust myself and others again, what it meant to be a good father, and to trust the goodness in myself and my children. I am learning as I go, and I will never stop learning.

The damage was truly great to our people, each of us that were taken; we suffered in a different way. Sexual abuse, physical abuse, mental abuse, loss of language and more. And the after effects are more still, and affects our children. It is important that we use the opportunity to stand up against the great injustice that was done to us. I go with the strength and support of my people. I go with the courage and dignity of our ancestors. I am not afraid to tell our story and proudly show that they did not destroy us. We are still here. We prevailed.



Strength

Vernon Williams (Crow)

The conversation around the genocide of our people that took place at the hands of the church at Canadian residential schools is long overdue.

I see the effects in so many ways in how our people interact with each other. I feel it in the hostility that emerges from unresolved pain and trauma within our community.

I believe that everyone is born capable of creating a wonderful and successful life for themselves, but when you begin at a disadvantage because of the cruelty of a system that was intentionally trying to harm and break you; well, its understandable the struggles to find your voice and way again.

I am honored to use my voice to represent my people along with my uncle and fellow Clan leader on this trip to Rome.

Every Child Matters



TAAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION



EVERY CHILD
MATTERS