



# HETS EDAYS

## TELLING STORIES



### MEET THE NEW COUNCIL

#### Inside SFN News

Letter from Communications.....	2	Halloween.....	22
Former Chief's Message.....	3	Ice Fishing.....	23
Council Farewells.....	4	Christmas Concert.....	24-25
New Chief and Council.....	5	Christmas Stick-Gambling.....	26-27
Election Results.....	6	4-on-4 Hockey.....	28-29
Department Updates.....	7-17	Community Cleanup.....	30
Top News.....	18-19	Grad 2020.....	31
EVENTS: Climate Change.....	20-21	BBQ at EVB.....	32
		COVID-19 information.....	36
		Yukon University.....	38



## *Letter from Communications 2019-2020*

*By Robert Joe*

Dear Readers and Selkirk Citizens,

My name is Robert Joe, I've been handling some of the communication legwork since July 2019. Forgive the lateness of this newsletter as production was hit with a myriad of delays, starting with a mild ice-age in January, flu-season, and an on-going global pandemic. Since starting this position, I had the privilege of being part of community events and everyone's highs and lows. One thing I learned from reviewing photos from Halloween to a Community Clean Up in May is that we are a community that plays together and stays together. Only in small-towns like Pelly Crossing can you find a 3-year old on first name bases with half the community. Only in Pelly Crossing can you find Elders tougher than a two-dollar stake. I'd like take the time to acknowledge some Citizens and employees of Selkirk First Nation.

We at Selkirk first Nation would like to acknowledge the recovery of Danny Joe and David Bennett. Both Danny and David fought off pneumonia battled back to Pelly Crossing where they are now healthy and happy to be home. We would also like to thank the employees of Finance and Capital, respectively. To the ladies of Finance; Bernice Johnnie, Elaine Alfred, Jerlene Joe, Mona Silverfox, and director Judy Chen, we thank you for keeping the payroll moving and allowing many of us to support ourselves and our loved ones. Thanks to those at Capital who help keep us heated and hydrated over the years; Darren Johnnie, Danny Van Bibber, David Grennan, Matthew Fairclough, Richard Sims, Stephan Joe, and Travis Johnnie. Most of these employees have been serving the community for over 10-20-years so next time, if you have an inquiry about your paycheque, or need water or heat, be kind, courteous, and patient with these individuals, maybe even say, 'thank you.'

A lot has changed from January to now, freezing cold, to boiling hot, old Council to new Council, new COVID restrictions to less restrictions.

So many delays for so many reasons, at this point, the other 3 Horseman of apocalypse and the other 9 plagues of Egypt would not surprise me at all. I'd probably ask Pestilence, War, Famine, and Death for a picture, while practicing social distancing of course.

Cheers,  
R.Joe

# Former Chief's message



I hope you are all safe and healthy during this new time in life. COVID-19 has thrown us for a spin and I hope you are adjusting safely.

I'm amazed that three years have passed already.

During the past three years, Council, our government and community experienced many successes and faced many challenges. In order to be a responsible and transparent government, we developed strategic priorities to guide us during our mandate. Our top priority was to serve our Citizens as best as we could.

During our time, we strengthened existing relationships and formed new ones. By doing so, we were able to secure funding commitments from other governments to carry out some important Infrastructure and Housing projects. Unfortunately, our Council will not see these projects implemented but we trust the new Council will carry on with these initiatives which will benefit our Citizens and community.

We undertook initiatives to address safety, wellness, infrastructure, housing, education and training needs for our Citizens and community. To develop these initiatives we consulted with and involved Citizens. We completed:

- The Community Safety Plan,
- The design of the new Early Childhood Development Centre,
- The design of the piped water station,

- The design and the submission to the Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) for the extension of the piped water system in Jon Ra, and
- A new swimming pool design and location.

We also developed a 5-Year Capital Plan, 5-year Capital Budget, a draft Housing Strategy, and a Wellness Strategy. We secured funding for building new houses and initiated a comprehensive employment and training strategy. We created a Justice Committee in order to implement the Justice Council. We negotiated a Fort Selkirk Buffer Zone that protects the area from mineral staking, and most importantly the withdrawal of Granite Canyon from Government of Yukon's list of potential energy sources.

In the last two months of our mandate our lives changed dramatically. The Coronavirus, or COVID-19, global pandemic, forced us to run our government and serve our Citizens very differently than what we normally did. It was a challenge, but we managed to rally together and keep our community safe and healthy. We need to continue to do this and continue to follow the recommendations of the Yukon Chief Medical Officer.

Thank you! to those who worked tirelessly to make sure our Citizens and residents of our community were kept safe. We also want to recognise and thank the volunteers

who lent a helping hand during the outbreak. We are not over this crisis, so please continue to do your part to prevent the spread.

We now have a new Chief and Council who are leading our government. Congratulations to Chief Isaac and his Council! The new Council will have their successes and challenges as well. It is important to have faith in your elected officials and trust that they have your best interest at heart. Also, keep in mind that it's not always possible to inform Citizens of all government initiatives and work in a timely manner, however, know that your Council is working on your behalf. We all have a responsibility to help make our Nation successful. Now more than ever it is important that we stand behind and support our Leaders. They have a tough job ahead of them in this pandemic environment.

On behalf of the Council, I want to thank you for the opportunity to lead our government. It has been both a privilege and an honour to serve you. I would also like to thank our Elders for their advice and support; SFN staff and advisers for their commitment and the important work they do, and Citizens who supported us all the way.

We wish all the best to the new Council. We will assist them whenever possible to ensure a smooth transition.

Mussi.  
Yours in Unity,  
Chief Nelson

# Council farewells

Due to COVID-19, Council were unable to gather with the community to say farewell. The following are Council's farewell words.

## **MC Elder Audrey Baker:**

Thank you to this Council for all your hard work, it's not an easy job. You did a great job during your term. Our care, share and respect need to happen. The people have voted, and its time to support them no matter what family you're from.

## **Chief Sharon Nelson:**

Thank you to this Council for your work over the past 3 years. I've enjoyed my time as Chief and having the opportunity to work with you and get to know you as my colleagues and now my friends. Milly, I thank you for your wisdom, Morris, I thank you for your team leadership qualities, Dean, I thank you for your knowledge about lands that you brought to the table, George, I thank you for bringing in the connection to the land and culture, Brendon, I thank you for wise words and forward thinking. And I thank the great support from staff. New Council will now take over and it's time to support them.

## **Elder Councillor Milly Johnson:**

Chief Nelson, your knowledge and experience has helped us. It takes a lot of skills to do what you do.

I would like to express my thanks to all the Selkirk First Nation members who have given me their support for these last 9 years as well as 3 other terms, in leadership. Now, I've made the decision to step out of the political role and focus on my

family. The community has grown and expanded, it was a pleasure to share time with community members, other leaders, to listen and learn. It was a pleasure to learn the Doòli practices, and apply it to my life, values shared by Elders who have gone. Now, we have a younger generation to focus on and lay out their future. I pray that our community will focus on a positive future, as we continue to build on our Nation, and community. Mussi'

## **Wolf Councillor Dean Gill:**

"We did a lot of hard work together. I enjoyed working with this Council. Thank you to the staff for all their hard work."

## **Wolf Councillor George McGinty:**

"It was a pleasure working with leadership. We grew together. We did a lot of planning and it's for the new leadership to move ahead. Mussi cho."

## **Crow Councillor Brendon Kneller:**

"We've learned a great deal. I see a great future and opportunities. I have enjoyed working with all of you, as colleagues, coworkers, friends."

## **Youth Councillor Morris Morrison**

I wanted to thank Selkirk First Nation for the opportunity to serve as your Youth Councillor. The last three years have been an incredible experience. The Youth Councillor position was created at the Annual 2014 General Assembly to give the youth an opportunity to have their voices heard and bring a fresh perspective to Council. A critical part of developing our community for the betterment of youth is

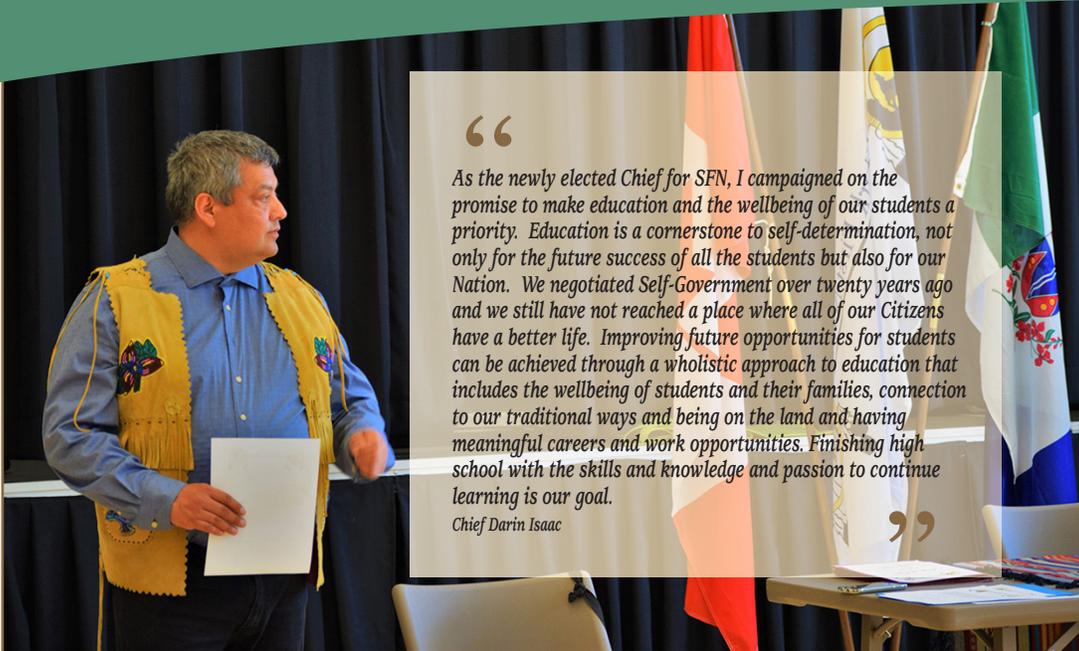


having their voices incorporated into our governance. In 1973, the Chief's had a vision to be *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*. In 2020, I believe we are now living that 1973 vision of our past Chiefs."

We are now living in the 1973 vision of Chiefs. My experience as Youth Councillor has really allowed me to appreciate our past leaders, and all the sacrifices they made for us. It's interesting to see the progress we have made since we signed our Final and Self-Government Agreements in 1997.

Today, the Yukon First Nations continue to blaze the trail in Canada for other First Nations in terms of self-government. There are 634 First Nations in Canada, 24 are self-governing and 11 of the 24 are right here in the Yukon. These Agreements have motivated me to take the next step in my political career. As you can tell, I am passionate about the community and the development of its future. Going forward it is of the utmost importance to protect our land, resources, and culture. We need to support language and culture related programs and services to practice our rights as First Nation People. Once more, I would like to thank the people of Selkirk First Nation for their guidance and support. I am humbled and honoured to have dedicated three years as a Youth Councillor to this government. Mussi-Cho.

# New Council



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*As the newly elected Chief for SFN, I campaigned on the promise to make education and the wellbeing of our students a priority. Education is a cornerstone to self-determination, not only for the future success of all the students but also for our Nation. We negotiated Self-Government over twenty years ago and we still have not reached a place where all of our Citizens have a better life. Improving future opportunities for students can be achieved through a wholistic approach to education that includes the wellbeing of students and their families, connection to our traditional ways and being on the land and having meaningful careers and work opportunities. Finishing high school with the skills and knowledge and passion to continue learning is our goal.*

Chief Darin Isaac

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We would like to begin by thanking all Citizens who voted in our election. It was a different kind of election since we could only vote by mail-in ballots, however sixty percent (60%) of eligible SFN electors voted. That is impressive!

We want to thank all those who helped through this very difficult time: former Chief and Council, staff, volunteers, and other professionals in their fields.

We also want to thank you, Citizens, for supporting and being patient with us as we assume our new leadership roles. It takes time to get “up to speed” and we want to have all the information available so we can provide the best possible Leadership for our nation.

Since our swearing in, we have hired an Executive Director and a Director of Finance, two key positions that assist us in running a responsible government.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding! We will continue to communicate with you regularly as we move forward.



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*I would like to say Mussi Cho for all your confidence in me, I work do to the best of my ability during my term. We have been very busy in the transition period. I look forward to working with all of you in a good way.*

Crow Councillor Carmen Baker

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*I was principal Elder for three terms. I had to choose between Wolf or Elder Councillor. I chose Elder because that's where my people most needed it.*

Elder Councillor Amy Johnny

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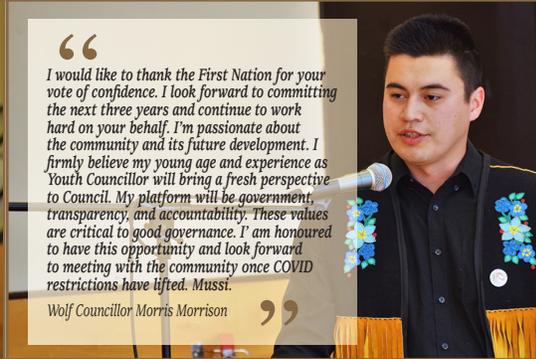


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*As Wolf Councillor, I wish to build more houses and government facilities to develop our people's skills and to strengthen our government structures, and lastly to be transparent and accountable. My belief is that the whole community is one big family and I will do everything in my power to contribute to family growth. I will be fair, honest, respectful and a team player over the next 3 years as your Wolf Councillor.*

Wolf Councillor Jeremy Harper

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*I would like to thank the First Nation for your vote of confidence. I look forward to committing the next three years and continue to work hard on your behalf. I'm passionate about the community and its future development. I firmly believe my young age and experience as Youth Councillor will bring a fresh perspective to Council. My platform will be government, transparency, and accountability. These values are critical to good governance. I am honoured to have this opportunity and look forward to meeting with the community once COVID restrictions have lifted. Mussi.*

Wolf Councillor Morris Morrison

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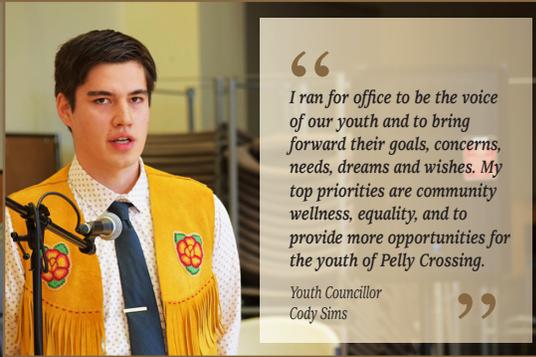


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*I'm pleased and very honoured to serve our community and people for the next 3 years. A few things I would like to see happen during the next few years are, protection of our land and more housing for our people. I'm very passionate about protecting our land and would like to see our land use plan finished. Housing is a top priority, and we at Council, recognize not having a place to call home can make one feel incomplete. I'd like to thank you all for your support. Mussi.*

Crow Councillor Ashley Edzerza

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*I ran for office to be the voice of our youth and to bring forward their goals, concerns, needs, dreams and wishes. My top priorities are community wellness, equality, and to provide more opportunities for the youth of Pelly Crossing.*

Youth Councillor  
Cody Sims

”

# Selkirk First Nation General Election 2020

Eligible Voters: 557

Number of Voters = 332

Percentage of Voters = 60%

## **Ballot results:**

Elected Chief: Darin Isaac

Elected Youth Councillor: Cody Sims

Elected Wolf Councillors:

Jeremy Harper

Morris Morrison

Elected Crow Councillors:

Carmen Lee Baker

Ashley Edzerza

Elected by acclamation

Elder Councillor Amy Johnny

Chief Candidate	Votes
ISSAC, Darin	176
McGINTY, Kevin	149
Rejected	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>332</b>

Youth Candidate	Votes
EDWARDS, Rhona	91
GILL, Kimberly	42
SIMS, Cody	175
Rejected	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>321</b>

Wolf Candidate	Votes
HARPER, Jeremy	257
McGINTY, George	100
MORRISON, Morris	264
Rejected	2

Crow Candidate	Votes
BAKER, Carmen Lee	265
EDZERZA, Ashley	253
HAGER, Donna	84
Rejected	6

## NEWMONT COFFEE EXPLORATION PROGRAM

In 2019, the Newmont Coffee Exploration Program season was our longest to date; the camp was open all winter (2018-2019) and exploration ramped up in February and closed at the end of September. The Exploration Program had 5 drills turning for most of the season and reduced this to 2 or 3 drills in July through to camp closure in September. Our drilling program team focused on infill drilling in the areas where the proposed pits are for the Coffee Mine Project, and also included working to try to define near-mine targets, with future goal of adding resources and reserves to the mine plan. Near the end of the season, we also explored new targets within the Coffee Mine Project footprint.

2019 also brought some interesting challenges to the Coffee Exploration Program:

1. Forest fires: There were a number of forest fires burning nearby our exploration program site, so we made sure we were prepared by updating our staff and contractors on our evacuation procedures, testing our firefighting system, and temporarily suspending some work that required helicopters for safety purposes.
2. Potable water: Our potable water system wasn't working up to the specifications we required this season, so we

brought in potable water to the site for our staff while we evaluated the existing system and formulated a solution. The result of the evaluation led to Newmont installing a new potable water system at the site.

3. Safety Improvements: Each exploration season we work to improve the safety and living conditions at the Coffee site. This year, we installed safety walkways for the fuel farms, safety berms for specific stretches of road, constructed an airstrip bypass road, installed safety signage across the site, and put in a new communications tower at the site.

As part of our efforts to foster a strong safety culture at Newmont's Coffee Mine Project and Exploration Program, our site staff participated in two safety "Stand Downs" in 2019, where we stopped all work and took the time to discuss and review our safety practices at site, and focused on making improvements through encouraging everyone to have safety as their number one value and work together to make the site safer. Newmont also held a safety event for staff, contractors, and suppliers featuring a talk from an international safety champion, Chad Hymas. Chad travels the world to deliver motivational talks

on safety and teamwork, which he began doing after his life changed in an instant when a 2,000-pound bale of hay shattered his neck, leaving him a quadriplegic in 2001. The purpose of this event was to bring everyone together and motivate all those involved in the Coffee Mine Project and Exploration Program to champion safety in all that they do in their work, as well as in their personal lives, with the ultimate goal of making sure everyone goes home safe every day.

*Newmont is looking forward to starting up the exploration season in spring 2020, and to working with Selkirk First Nation more closely throughout the year. For any Citizens interested in working at the Coffee Exploration Program, please see Mary McGinty, the Minto Liaison, as we share our job postings via email with Mary as they come up. Jobs for the Coffee Exploration Program are also posted on the YuWin website and at [Newmont.com/jobs](http://Newmont.com/jobs) - please be sure to go to the bottom of the page and click the link for "jobs in Canada, Argentina, and Mexico".*

*If you're interested in learning more about what it's like to work at an exploration site and in the mining industry, members of the Newmont Coffee Mine Project Team will be coming to Pelly Crossing in March with Yukon College to talk with students about careers in mining.*

# TRIP TO CARLISLE CREEK

Lands had a very busy summer months with many projects happening at the same time. One of projects under the workplan was a boat trip to Carlisle Creek. The purpose of this trip was for the Elders, youth and new lands staff to rediscover the Traditional Territory. According to the SFN Final Agreement, our traditional territory technically ends at Coffee Creek, however there were a number of Selkirk families who grew up outside the traditional territory.

The Land's team have meetings with the Yukon Government (YG) and various companies regarding mining on our traditional territory. The Lands team felt they needed to get their boots on the ground in order to gain a better understanding of the adverse affects the mines have on the land.

From our bi-lateral meetings with YG, Lands wanted to go past Coffee

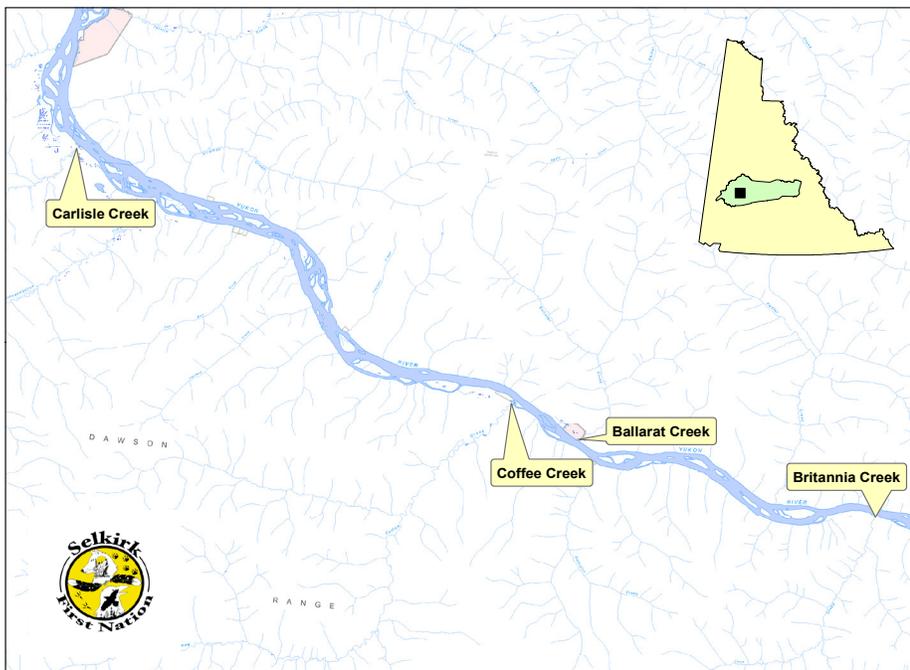
Creek to visualize the creeks that are being referenced in relation to the Coffee Gold project.

The trip to Carlisle Creek wasn't just a business-related expedition, but a personal one, as the area has the Roberts family legacy attached to it. The Roberts Family grew up at Carlisle Creek, including former Chief Sharon Nelson's mother,

Sarah Roberts, the mother of Clayton Roberts, Doreen Roberts. Three youth also accompanied Clayton and the lands team: Keyshawn Sawyer, Taty Van Bibber and Clayton's son, Luke Roberts.

For Luke, it was a chance to journey to the land of his great-Chief Sharon Nelson's mother,

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grandfather, who he was named after. When they arrived to Carlisle Creek, Clayton told Luke, “I brought you home”.

The Land’s team were very impressed with the youth. They worked diligently setting up camp, collecting firewood, loading/unloading the boats, slashing, and helping with repairs on the cabins at Coffee Creek. Three Elders were booked for the trip but unfortunately, they were forced to withdraw on the morning of departure.

The Land’s team stopped at Britannia Creek for an inspection of mining activities in the area and found a fuel storage tank with had a bladder liner around it.

With a single day of heavy rain, the fuel could easily overflow into the environment. Once they returned to Pelly, the Mining Manager

contacted the Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR) staff to report it. EMR in turn contacted the owner and it will be cleaned up and the tanker will be removed this spring.

The Land’s team had a great difficulty finding the SFN cabin at Coffee Creek, as it is quite a distance off the river and the trail required major slashing.

After some hard work, the team reached the cabin, they made repairs and installed a new and safer chimney. The team then constructed a sign at the river to indicate where the cabin is located for the next weary traveller.

Base camp was set up Ballarat Creek, just south of Coffee Creek), where the team stayed for 2 days.

On the second day, the Land’s team went to the GoldCorp camp, for a site tour and lunch. From there, the team continued down river to Carlisle Creek.

Since the Elders made a last-minute cancellation, the Land’s team had to find the cabin on their own. After wondering up and down different streams, the team found Carlisle Creek and a scouted the area.

The team hoped to find some remanence of an old camp, but time and mother-nature devoured whatever camp existed there years ago. The team did manage to find parts of the old telegraph line that went through the area, including an old transformer.

On the third day, the Land’s team packed up camp and headed to Fort Selkirk through the pouring rain. The next morning, the team headed back to Minto and then home to Pelly Crossing.

Lands Manager, Betty-Ann Baptiste felt the trip was “a huge success”. The journey gave the Land’s team an opportunity to visualize all the creeks they’ve spent months talking about.



# Department Updates: CAPITAL



Much like the rest of Canada, Capital got a rough start to 2020, starting with a brutal cold spell in the January. Once the weather changed its mood from miserably cold to welcoming and warm, a global pandemic hit and shut the world down. This forced Capital to make swift changes to their work force.

## COLD SNAP

Throughout January, temperatures dropped to -55, forcing many workers to stay at home. Thanks to Selkirk's Cold Weather Policy, many of us remained home, however not everyone had the choice to stay

home. Citizens still needed water and heat running through their homes, and this meant no rest for the Water Works and Operations and Maintenance crews.

## WATER WORKS

The Water Works crew of Danny Van Bibber, Matthew Fairclough, and Stephan Joe were tasked with keeping the water flowing and David Grennan was the one bringing the water to people when needed. You can't be in water works crew without getting splashed once in a while and sometimes that's precisely what happened, even while working in

frigid temperatures. Yet the crew persisted, pushed through, and Pelly Crossing got the water it needed.

## Operations and Maintenance

The Operations and Maintenance crew composed of Darren Johnnie, Travis Johnnie and Richard Sims were tasked with supplying heat to homes, delivering diesel and maintaining furnaces. Sometimes, the diesel tank would have a massive build up from Diesel algae. Diesel algae is a bacteria that grows

*cont'd on page 11*





**cont'd from page 10**

in the space between the water and the diesel in the tank. Water can build in diesel tanks through many ways, in this instance, it was the moisture brought on from the cold snap.

To combat the cold, both crews would keep their vehicles running all day and night because they felt it was the only way they would make it to work the next morning.

Both crews are sometimes taken for granted. For over 10-years, the Water works crew, Matthew and Stephan, have been working hard making sure everyone has safe and clean water to drink. Capital veteran, Danny Van Bibber, is a new addition. Capital was happy to get him back. One-revolving-door position that capital has more than happy to fill was the Water Delivery

Driver, and everyone can thank David Greenan for continuing this service.

For over 20 years, Darren, Travis, and Richard Sims have supplied heat to homes, kept furnaces running, and did everything else in between. I once asked Richard, “what was the most ridiculous thing someone asked you to do?”

“Change a lightbulb”, he replied casually as if it were another day at the office.

**COVID-19 and Postponed Projects**

It’s time to once again address the elephant in the room. Capital’s work capacity will be drastically altered due to the ongoing pandemic. While large scale projects are to be postponed until

2021, smaller scale construction projects will continue.

The campground will be closed this tourist season for the safety of the community. Construction on the new swimming pool, Early Childhood Development Centre, and the Jon Ra water plant will be postponed due to the immense scale, time, and rigorous effort and manpower required to complete the work.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has also altered the means of which Contractors operate in the community. All contractors will be required to work within the COVID-19 guidelines such as:

1. All Contractors have completed the 14-day isolation period if they have left the Yukon by air, land, or water.

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2. Contractors are supplying the community of Pelly Crossing with Critical and Essential services as per the “Directions and Guidelines for the Delivery of Critical, Essential and Other Services in Response to COVID-19.”
3. Prior to travelling to Pelly Crossing and once a week while working in Pelly Crossing to ensure compliance with any updates as per the Chief Medical Officer of Health’s “recommendations” and “orders”.
4. In Addition to the aforementioned, all contractors

and their employees will be expected to:

- Refrain from socializing with any Selkirk First Nation residents in Pelly Crossing;
- Only travel to and from their place of accommodation in Pelly Crossing to their worksite;
- Transport all groceries and essential items required for the length of their work (groceries are only available to residents of Pelly);
- Refrain from partying with co-workers at their place of accommodation in Pelly Crossing;
- Refrain from socializing with any contractors from other contracting companies whose place of accommodation may be in the vicinity;
- Maintain physical distancing at their Pelly Crossing place of accommodation and at the worksite when/if possible.

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## DUPLEXES and SUMMIT DRYWALL

Construction on two duplexes will begin this year. One will be built on Riverfront, and the other Duplex will be placed near Eliza Van Bibber School. Josh Hirsh and Summit Drywall crew are overseeing production with a preliminary deadline set in November of 2020. Hirsh has established a professional working relationship with Capital and various Selkirk Citizens have found employment with Summit Drywall. Capital has the utmost confidence in the abilities of Hirsh

and Summit Drywall, as they've met their previous deadlines and already completed work on several homes in Pelly Crossing.

### IN CONCLUSION

Before one can muster a critique at Capital's Work force, keep in mind, these are the employees that help keep Pelly Crossing running. Before one can scowl at a contractor, keep in mind they're racing against time to get the houses ready by November and are willing to employ SFN Citizens.

If a Capital vehicle so happens to drive by, don't think of something negative, keep in mind that this crew kept the streets plowed through the snow fall, kept water and heating flowing during the cold spell, and pandemic or no pandemic, they made it work.

From the bottom of the hearts of SFN staff, we're grateful and appreciate of the effort of the entire Capital Crew and their work in Pelly Crossing for keeping us safe and warm.



# Department Updates: HEALTH AND SOCIAL

## THE COMMUNITY IS THE MEDICINE: CULTURALLY-ROOTED WELLNESS AND HEALING WORKSHOP

In late May and early June of 2020, Selkirk First Nation's Social Programs held a 5-day training course about *culturally-rooted* wellness. The goal is to introduce "traditional healing" and wellness and provide a deeper understand of the source of community issues. The idea being that all First Nation communities discard Western

healing methods and replace it with the traditional model, known as *the Cultural Cure*. First Nation issues such as suicide, violence, and addiction which are fueled by the mental health crisis currently plaguing rural Northern communities are discussed and explored over the five-day course. Among the many topics discussed were the four waves of colonization and how it still affects First Nations today.

First wave of colonization is the legal, where the Aboriginal population are identified and controlled with the suppression their legal rights. The second wave is administrative, this involved community relocation and the creation of reserves. The third wave is ideological, which led to the creation of Residential Schools, designed to "protect and transform the students". The result was the opposite of the intent. The experience of Residential School left many survivors with family/ community crisis, mental health issues and personal afflictions such as addiction, suicide, coupled with anger, depression, guilt, shame, and self-hate. This led to Westerners to coin the term, "Residential School Syndrome" and the creation of the fourth wave, a medical wave. The western style healing consists of the social welfare industry of foster homes, treatment centres, and consulting

medical health and social professionals. Again, the intent of Westerners had the opposite effect on First Nations. To combat this, First Nations communities began to discard the western healing in place of a "cultural cure".

*The Cultural Cure* consists identifying trauma as both personal and social wound, as well as the identifying the four paths to healing: growth, cleansing, transcendence, and psychological. The focus of Cultural healing is to balance the four aspects of humanity: mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual through nature, community, family, and the individual. The Cultural Cure is designed to reaffirm traditional values to restore and create a caring community of respect and cultural pride by embracing cultural identity.

Through the 5-day course made possible by Zoom, participants learned about identifying the root causes of the wounds our First Nations people endured and how to better support our people to be strong, resilient and empowered on their path to healing.

One anonymous Participant found the experience to be both "profound and insightful" and that, "using a solution-based approach is a step in the right direction to support others with love, care, and support."



**SOCIAL PROGRAMS EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN A WORKSHOP MADE POSSIBLE BY ZOOM.**

# Department Updates:

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (ECDC)

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) is only open to staff at this time. Since April 17<sup>th</sup>, staff have been adapting the Centre's program to make sure we are following the Public Health Guidelines to keep our children, families and staff safe when coming to the Center. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health has directed that less children be allowed in licensed childcare facilities while ensuring that childcare services are available to critical or essential workers.

As a result, Yukoners whose occupations are not considered critical or essential are not permitted to use licensed childcare facilities at this time. However, they will be available for parents or guardians who are employed a) as critical or essential service workers and, b) for vulnerable families.

Once we reopen the ECDC, the number of children will be limited



**NICOLE AND MARY-ANN ON THEIR WAY TO DELIVER FAIRY-TALES**

to six (6). We will have two (2) childcare staff and the manager. We can only have 50% of our occupancy license which is 18 children which means we can only have a maximum occupancy of 9 children and staff. We have identified the 6 children. The selection is based on community essential service working parents (guidelines provided by Child Care Services).

We recommend to the parents to leave their children at home whenever possible with parents, grandparents or caregivers.

For the children at home, we provide resources and educational kits for early learning at home. The wellbeing and early learning of your child is important to us! Each Monday, ECDC restocks the bins with resources, located at the main door of the Center for you to take home. These kits are handled with care.

We don't have a reopening date at this point. However, staff are actively preparing for when we can return to "normal"; they are taking

professional development training and mentorship opportunities. We have invited two (2) children (ECDC staff children) to test the waters (new program), following the daily screening questionnaire to ensure their healthy and also, assess our ability to care for the children under these new guidelines. There are 14 questions about COVID-19 symptoms. If a child answers yes to 1 of the 14 questions, they cannot attend until they are symptom free. This applies to ECDC staff as well. During this trial period, we have noted and amended the program several times, again to ensure we are creating a solid plan for the children and staff to return to a safe environment.

Parents watch for bi-weekly update letters in your children's educational kits.

Please continue to educate your children that getting lots of sleep, washing hands often and keeping a distance of 2 metres/6 feet (1 moose) from friends can help us all stay safe and healthy.

**WE MISS YOU!**

# Department Updates: COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS



THE CSOS AND RCMP RUNNING A CHECK STOP OUTSIDE OF PELLY CROSSING



Since the establishment of the Community Safety Officer (CSO) initiative started, we have had numerous community members come out on weekend patrols. We are hoping to gain more interest in the community from Citizens interested in becoming a CSO.

We have been working with other justice professionals such as the RCMP, SCAN (Safer Communities and Communities) Government of Yukon Conservation and other professionals including the new Mental health worker.

We still receive a high volume of calls with Bootlegging and drug dealing concerns, as well as suspicious vehicles coming into the community. The CSO's deal with a high volume of public intoxication which at times become police matters. We have also dealt with many bear callouts including dog packs in the community. During this past cold spell, we encouraged pet owners to make sure your

animals were kept safe and warm.

Last summer the CSO's went door to door during the fire season handing out information on fires in the Yukon. As Community Safety Officers, we deal with many sensitive issues which are confidential. We do our best to help Citizens and residents to get the help they need by pointing them in the right direction. When dealing with concerns, we try to follow up with individuals to make sure they received the support needed.

One of our CSO's, David Bennett, has been away from work and the community. Your kind words and messages to David were a great comfort to him. We miss David's positive and cheerful disposition! We wish him a full recovery and are looking forward to having him back!

The CSO program played an active part during COVID-19. We did our

best to make sure the community was healthy and safe. We continue to encourage people to follow the Yukon Chief Medical Officer's recommendations and we continue to monitor our community and help wherever we are needed.

Again, just to remind everyone the Community Security Officers are not the police, we have no legal authority over Citizens.

## HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS SINCE AUGUST 2019:

Force Response Options to Animal Training (FROAT) Training –

- On October 12th – 13th, 2019 an Instructor came to Pelly Crossing to train 11 participants with the Force Response Options to Animal Training (FROAT). The training consisted of the potential of encountering aggressive animals. The

*cont'd on page 17*

*cont'd from page 16*

participants learned the proper handling and techniques of the mechanical Bite Stick, Dog spray and Bear Spray. This was a 2-day training workshop.

#### **Basic Security Training (BST)**

- On October 14th – 18th 2019 an instructor provided Basic Security Training (BST). This is 5 day/40 hours course from British Columbia. Six (6) SFN participants attended the course. The course included a written test.

#### **Volunteer Fire Department**

- On October 22, 2019 the CSO's with some community residents met the Deputy Fire Marshall "Mike Dine" to decide if there was interesting in starting a volunteer fire department. Approximately 20 people came for the information at the Fire Hall. Application forms were handed out to those who were interested. Once the applications are filled out and returned the Deputy Fire Marshall will start coming and doing some weekend training sessions in Pelly Crossing.

#### **Volunteers for the Animal Shelter**

- In October 2019, an awareness workshop on dogs in the community was held at the Link Building. Dog collars and dog tags along with a few draws for prizes were handed out. We hope to have the old PALS Society Building up and running in the community and

we hope to have volunteers.

#### **NEW CSO Vehicle**

- The Community Security Officers picked up their New CSO vehicle at Whitehorse Motors which was sponsored through the dealership on October 26th, 2019. Whitehorse Motors also sponsored the purchase and installation of the emergency roof lights for the safety vehicle. The logos were installed and partially sponsored through Yukon Apparel. Chief Sharon Nelson and Community Safety Advisor, Gina Nagano along with CSO's Darcy Marcotte and David Bennet were in attendance during the pickup of the New vehicle.

#### **Halloween Night**

- The CSO's patrolled throughout the community during Halloween night handing out candy to children. We then attended the community Halloween party held at EVB school and participated with the Halloween costume judging.

#### **Christmas Check stops**

- The Community Safety Officers, Darcy Marcotte, David Bennett and Ellie Marcotte participated in a Community Check Stop on December 11th, 2019 with the local RCMP. Chief Sharon Nelson and Community Safety Advisor, Gina Nagano were also in attendance during

the evening Check Stops, wishing everyone a Happy and Safe holiday throughout the Christmas season.

#### **NEW CSO Trailer**

- The Community Security Officers, Darcy Marcotte and David Bennett officially moved into their new office across from EVB School on January 8th, 2020.

#### **Completion of the Community Safety Plan**

- Citizens, Elders, youth, residents and community agencies were involved planning sessions were held to create a Safe Plans for our community.

Five main topics came out of the planning sessions to be included in the Plan. They are:

1. On the Land Based Healing
2. The Community Security Officer Program
3. Bootlegging and Drug Dealer Concerns
4. Dog and Animal Concerns
5. Communications – possible radio station

#### **New Fiscal Budget and Workplans**

- We are now working on our new budgets and workplans for the new fiscal year and will be presenting it to the Chief and Council for review in the coming weeks.

I want to thank you all for allowing me to present our CSO program updates!

# Top News

## The Work of Kaylyn Baker

Hello, my name is Kaylyn Baker. Most of you know me, some may not. I am the grandchild of Betty and Danny Joe and of Richard and Audrey Baker. Since 2014, I have been providing for my three children by sewing and beading full-time. It all started because my daughter, Havanah needed regalia to dance with the Selkirk Spirit Dancers.

I approached my best friend Heather Dickson who owns Dickson Designs to create Havanah's hide dress and beadwork. Heather suggested that I do the beadwork for Havanah's belt and then she would do the rest and put it together.

It is so funny when I think about it now because I really hated beading at first. I was impatient. I kept poking my fingers with the needle, and was discouraged because my lines weren't perfectly straight. Heather would frequently be getting text messages from me at all hours like, saying: "I'm going



to cut it up and never bead again!" Thank goodness she was so patient with me; telling me not to cut it and to keep going.

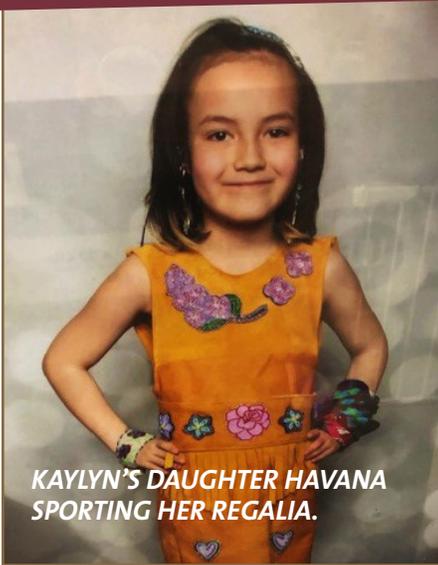
By the time I had finished the beadwork, it looked so nice all together that I was inspired to keep going and to bead some fireweed as a tribute to Havanah's Tlingit name Lóol which translates to Fireweed. Afterwards I ended up beading some hearts as well, which led me to put the dress and belt together with the help of my

Great Aunt Dorothy Johnson. Once I completed the dress, Heather asked if I would be interested in becoming one of the beadworkers for her business, which I accepted. It was during that time that I got to explore different styles until I eventually started to find mine.

With time, I started branching out on my own. I became a Manitobah Mukluks Storyboot Artist which gave me a platform to sell my art to a wider network. I then applied

*cont'd on page 19*





**KAYLYN'S DAUGHTER HAVANA SPORTING HER REGALIA.**



*cont'd on page 18*

to the Adaka Cultural Festival as a visual artist. Once my application was accepted and I attended the festival, my name started to become a little more well-known, my followers grew on my social media accounts. Year after year, I became a little more confident in trying new things and getting out of my comfort zone to eventually hosting workshops and speaking on panels during conferences.

One of my recent accomplishments is a beaded purse that I had created got accepted into the Yukon Permanent Arts Collection (YPCA) and was displayed at the Yukon University's library. It is now archived with hundreds of other artists' works. YPAC encourages artists from every level to apply each year and if you aren't selected one year, you are encouraged to keep applying. There are so many great artists from our community. I think that it would be awesome to see more Northern Tutchone

artists emerging through different programs like that.

Throughout my journey as an artist, a huge defining moment for me was the passing of my dear cousin Raine Silas in late 2016. I never felt grief like that before and wasn't dealing with it in a healthy way. It wasn't until I became pregnant with my son Lyric in the Spring of 2017 that I started to realize everything I had been putting myself and others through. I was still grieving and not ready to let go, but now I had nowhere to channel it, so I started to channel it into my artwork. I had created a design in memory of Raine called Rainestrom and started to play around with the idea of beading people, memories, places, feelings, and combining many different techniques to relay those as well.

Beading became a form of meditation for me. A happy place that I could just feel every feeling in the moment, and it would turn

into something tangible. I started becoming even more obsessed with seeing finished results because I was so excited to see what had been in my head hours before in real life. I was excited to show the results to my followers on social media. It was when I started to get a big boom in followers as well. I soon had messages after every project asking if I was going to sell it. It got to be so much that I started my Etsy account, where sales continued and increased. It was so cool to see these items I was creating getting purchased from people across the country, even way down in the United States. I feel like in a way, Raine saw that I was struggling and helped me navigate through my grief in a healthier way. Beading definitely saved me.

It's been a rollercoaster of an adventure...and I'm not done yet. I still have a lot to learn and a lot that I want to teach others.

Kaylyn's work is available online at - <https://www.etsy.com/ca/shop/kaylynbakera>



**RAINESTROM**

# Event: CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING November 26 2019

## GUESTS SPEAKERS

Last November, SFN held a Climate Change Gathering. All community members were invited and we had an impressive turn out of approximately 60 people, including the high school and junior high students.

The goal was to start a discussion on climate change and how it affects us as a community, particularly our food security. Discussions included how can we secure food for the community and our future generations?

- **Norma Kassi** – Discussed the fragility of our food systems in the face of climate change crises that are occurring today.
- **Aletta Leitch** - Presented on the Climate Change Energy



- and Green Economy Strategy for the Department of Environment of Energy, Mines and Resources & Economic Development.
- **Regional Chief Adamek** – Unable to make it, however Emily McDougall and Jacqueline Shorty were able to present an update from

the AFN National Office on Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security within the Territory.

- **Siku Allooloo** - Presented on Climate Change Project in Fort Smith & Introduction of questions for current project.

*cont'd on page 21*



*cont'd on page 7*



*cont'd from page 20*

- **Kathy Kruze** – presented on the Greenhouse summer project within the community

Citizens recognized that our short greenhouse growing season, our lack of recycling, and lack of agriculture are important factors for food security. These concerns are being integrated in the climate change project workplan for this year as we try to address them. The Coronavirus, COVID-19, has impacted us all so the plans we had in place have been affected as well. However, we will continue to address the concerns identified. We are still looking into an extended seasonal greenhouse in the hopes to get a year-round growing season to secure the community with fresh produce.

Since the meeting, we have been in touch with Raven Recycling discussing the process of starting our own community recycling program. Again, COVID-19 has impacted this initiative but we remain hopeful that we can resume

these talks soon. There will be more community meetings in the future to update Citizens on the progress of the project as well as community based workshops. However, all workshops and gatherings will be postponed until the COVID-19 virus is under control and we get clearance from Council to proceed with community projects.



# Event HALLOWEEN



# Event ICE-FISHING ON JACKFISH LAKE



# Event: *Christmas Concert*





# Event *Christmas Stickgambling*





**1ST PLACE – RAINBOW RICH: RICHARD BAKER, APRIL BAKER, AMBER BAKER, CARMEN BAKER, DAWN DUQUETTE AND RICKY BAKER.**

# Event 4-on-4 Men's Hockey Tournament



On January 4th, 2020, four teams entered the 4-on-4 Men's Hockey Tournament hosted by Selkirk First Nation. The four teams who competed were the *Selkirk Bears* of Pelly Crossing, the *Carmacks Hawks*, *Whitehorse Grizzlies*, and *Mayo Fire Department*.

The best game of the tournament had to go the *Mayo Fire Department* and the *Grizzlies*. Both teams fought ferociously for the puck, going neck to neck, and goal for goal up until the final minute. *The Mayo Fire Department* lost a razor thin game to the *Grizzlies* and were then eliminated from the tournament. The *Selkirk Bears* lost their game to the *Hawks* in close battle but were outright mauled in their next game by the *Grizzlies*.

After a rough start, the *Bears* grinded their way back from the brink of elimination.

The final and semi-final games heated up in intensity. After defeating the *Grizzlies*, the *Selkirk Bears* made it to the finals to play against the formidable *Carmacks Hawks*. After a scoreless, closely contested first period, the final game got very competitive in the second and third periods. The game consisted of body checks, cross-checks, trips, hooks, and players getting their teeth tickled and their gums scrapped by hockey sticks. It was a rough, tough, and gritty old school game of hockey and both teams played well and fought hard, but there could only be one winner. After final score of 2-1, the *Bears* won the game and the tournament.



# Event: *Community Clean Up Day* Friday, May 8, 2020

On a toasty Friday afternoon in May, Pelly Crossing had its first community event since the 4-0-4 Hockey Tournament in January. Following the tournament, the Yukon was hit with cold weather and then, the global pandemic made its way North. Many residents of Pelly Crossing did their part and helped pick up garbage around the community. There were candy wrappers, plastic bottles,

empty cans, containers, broken toys, and all sorts of stray pieces of trash like plastic, cardboard, paper, and sometimes metal.

After months of being overwhelmed with information about COVID-19, it was refreshing to see the community come together to chip in and make Pelly Crossing a little better, one piece of trash at a time.



# Event *Grad 2020*

*Congratulations Graduates!*



LEFT TO RIGHT: 2020 SFN GRADUATES OF PELLY CROSSING - DYLAN ALFRED, MACKENZIE SILAS-GILL, AND TYRA GILL



# Event **BBO** at ELIZA VAN BIBBER SCHOOL



# GOVERNMENT OFFICES REMAIN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Some SFN Staff are working at the government offices, while practicing physical distancing, and some staff are working at home.

Visit SFN's website <http://www.selkirkfn.com/> to get staff contact information. You can reach them by email or call 867-537-3331.

## COVID-19 is still a threat

### 6 Steps to Staying Safe

-  **1** Physical distancing – keep 2 metres away from everyone who's not a member of your household
-  **2** Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
-  **3** Stay home if you're feeling sick
-  **4** Don't gather in groups of 11 or more people and remember to keep 2 metres apart
-  **5** Avoid unnecessary travel to our rural communities
-  **6** Self-isolate if you've just returned to the territory or if you've been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19

Visit [Yukon.ca/COVID-19](http://Yukon.ca/COVID-19) for information



## CELEBRATING IN ISOLATION

### Birthdays

1 – 5

#### Create a Video Time Capsule

Have loved ones record a video message to be shared with your child on their 16th birthday

#### Read a Book

Grandparents could read a story over the phone or by video

#### Share a Slideshow

Post a video of your child's milestones or funny moments to share with loved ones

6 – 10

#### Take a Virtual Tour

Many Museums and National parks now offer Virtual Tours or you could explore using Google Earth

#### Birthday Cards

Friends & Family can send birthday postcards, drawings and more to make your child feel special

#### Go for a Family Walk or Bike Ride

Get outside or on the land with your family now that summer is here

11 – 15

#### Play Cards with a Virtual Deck

You can play cards with a virtual deck that reacts in real time or use specialty decks like UNO

#### Online Boardgames

Use websites like [tabletopia.com](http://tabletopia.com) to play over 800 boardgames

#### Create your own Trivia Night

Create your own birthday themed trivia and play with friends over video platforms like Zoom

16 – 19

#### Host a Virtual Party

Use apps like Zoom or HouseParty to connect with friends and play games virtually!

#### Movie Night

Netflix is one platform that allows you to watch movies together in real time on your own devices

#### Start a Journal or Bucket List

Start a Journal and write in it everyday for a year, or create a Bucket List to start working on

ANYONE!



#### Send Flowers

Support your local flower shops!



#### Facetime or record a birthday message

phone and wish a happy birthday or post a video to their wall!



#### Birthday Parade

Decorate your vehicle with balloons and streamers - drive by and honk or wave to celebrate!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



YUKON REGION





There have been lots of changes at the Het's edan Ku campus. On May 18,2020 we switched from Yukon College to Yukon University (YukonU).

Due to COVID-19 services are limited and campus access is restricted. The staff have been working from home since March 17th. YukonU are working with the Chief Medical Officer to enable us to open all campuses throughout the Yukon in a safe way. I am hopeful it will be soon.

Meanwhile YukonU have moved many programs online for a September start date.

Here are the online/Zoom programs/courses which will be available here in our community so no one will have to leave the community if they do not want to: (courses that will be available in the fall term will be on the website soon)

- University Access Pathways
- Indigenous Governance
- Business Administration
- Early Learning and Childcare
- Education After Degree
- First Nations Governance and Public Administration
- General Studies
- Health Care Assistant
- Liberal Arts
- Office Administration
- Public Administration
- Community Education and Employment Support
- Social Work

The amount of real-time delivery and/or flexible-time delivery will vary for each program.

If you have Facebook the Pelly campus has a page under Het's edan Ku if you would like to follow. We also have an updated webpage on the YukonU website YukonU.ca . If you need to contact the staff please send your questions to [mkoehl@yukonu.ca](mailto:mkoehl@yukonu.ca) Stay safe and Healthy!

# IN MEMORY



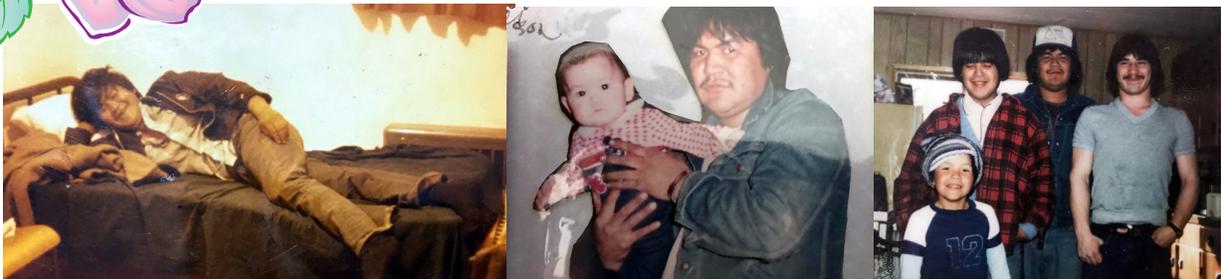
Annie McGinty



Tommy Joe



Thomas Harper



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