



SELKIRK FIRST NATION



Hó Ney Ra

small stories



Inye dóhúch'í (how are you)

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Like all First Nations governments, SFN has more to do than it has funding and staff capacity to carry out. There are many “must do” activities that are about just keeping the lights on and the system running. SFN can get around these limitations to some degree by applying for more funding and contracting more help. But these also take time, and there are limits to what SFN can accomplish. This is why this Council has been strategic in setting priorities.

We are working on a 5-year Capital Budget which will help us plan for certain projects or initiatives that are over \$20,000 like infrastructure projects, housing, heavy equipment (rental or purchase) and fleet vehicles. The 5-year Capital Budget will be finalised at the beginning of the new year.

An election is coming in April 2020, the 5-year Capital Budget will help the next Council to complete the work underway.

Addressing the poor housing and infrastructure condition remains one of our top priorities. To date, SFN has conducted numerous assessments on many houses and buildings and continues to work towards resolving these important issues.

Our renewed Fiscal Transfer Agreement includes new funding from Canada to

help close the gap in funding for housing, infrastructure and social well being. SFN has submitted a “Closing the Gap Plan” that identifies housing as a major gap that needs to be addressed. We are waiting for Canada’s response to our plan.

SFN Key Strategies

Focus on culture, language and traditional activities as a foundation for well-being and stewardship of our lands and natural resources

Complete essential planning for the future of the community and Traditional Territory - community safety, capital infrastructure, housing, community lands, and rural lands

Develop a holistic approach to supporting SFN Citizens - use a “case management” approach to support the individual, and ensure good linkage between social programs, training programs, and well-being services

Provide support without enabling dependency - support Citizens’ needs around healing, training, and learning while also fostering self-responsibility and self-reliance

Build unity through stronger engagement with all SFN Citizens, including those living outside Pelly Crossing

SFN JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Council is happy to announce that the SFN Justice Committee is now operational. The Justice Committee members are: Michelle Kolla, Kala Smith, David Silas and Lucy McGinty.

The Committee’s Terms of Reference were adopted by Council on November 20, 2019.

The Committee’s mandate is as follows:

The Justice Committee (the “Committee”) shall develop recommendations to Council for:

1. the application and implementation of Article 11.0 (The Justice Council) of our Constitution, including any

amendments to the Constitution and any related Selkirk legislation which the Committee may consider appropriate;

2. the scope, design and implementation of Selkirk’s programs and services for the administration of justice; and
3. any other matter relating to Selkirk’s administration of justice which may be referred by Council to the Committee from time to time for the Committee’s recommendations.

For more information on the Justice Committee contact Lois Joe at 867-537-3331 ext. 611.

CANADA SUBMITS ITS FARO MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT TO YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT BOARD

The Faro Mine was once the largest pit of lead-zinc in the world with an approximate size of Victoria, British Columbia. Today, it is the site of one of the most complex abandoned mine remediation projects in Canada.

The Canadian Government will fund the remediation project, which includes site maintenance, monitoring, consultation, implementing, and designing the remediation plan. The site has left behind over 70 million tonnes of tailings and 320 million tonnes of waste rock. This waste is already releasing some heavy metals and acid into the surrounding land and water, and without remediation it will get much worse and have significant impacts on the downstream environment.

To start getting the necessary approvals to clean up the mine site, the Canadian Government recently submitted a Project Proposal to Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) for assessment and review.

As part of YESAB's first step in assessing the Proposal, they invited affected First Nations, and other governments to provide

comments on whether the Proposal has all the information necessary for YESAB to consider it. The affected Yukon First Nations are SFN and the three Kaska Nations; Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation and Kaska Dena Council. Because SFN is and will be affected, we have put forward comments on the information provided in the Proposal and have made recommendations for additional information to be provided.

SFN's first round of comments to YESAB includes requests for more information about Canada's plans and how they have put together the Proposal to clean up and manage the site. Concerns at this stage include whether Canada has made the best decisions about what they plan to do to collect all the contaminated water and cover up the tailings and waste rock. We are concerned about whether Canada has considered SFN's input about how clean the released water from the site should be in the long term. We want more information about potential impacts to Chinook Salmon and want Canada to provide YESAB more information about SFN's traditional use downstream of the mine.

The Faro clean up is a huge and complex project and after it is done Canada will have to stay on site for hundreds of years to collect all the contaminated groundwater and to treat it. So we want Canada to provide a fuller record of how they have developed their proposal so that we can be confident the plans will work and that Canada will work with SFN now and in the future to make decisions about running the project.

Eliza Van Bibber School Remembrance Day Ceremony

On November 6th, Students and faculty of Eliza Van Bibber School were joined by the SFN Citizens, RCMP, and the local chapter of the Canadian Rangers to honour the Canadian veterans who fought in WWII. The students, faculty, and community members presented poems, slideshows, and shared what Remembrance Day means to them.



COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS

The Community Safety Officers (CSO) in Pelly Crossing are there to assist Citizens and keep the community safe. This can take many forms. Please be aware that they are **not** law enforcement officers, health care providers or counselors.

Please support the CSOs as they provide an important service to our community. Together, we are making our community safe for our children, our Elders and our families!

Call the Community Safety Officers for:

- ✓ Suspicious activity
- ✓ Noise complaints
- ✓ Unsafe activities
- ✓ Wildlife concerns
- ✓ Property Damage
- ✓ Unusual Traffic or People
- ✓ Misuse of traditional territory
- ✓ Animal welfare

DARCY MARCOTTE
LEAD CSO

867-332-5585

DAVID BENNETT
CSO

867-334-2242

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

RCMP, Fire Dept, EMS EMERGENCY

Call 911

Pelly RCMP Detachment Inquiries

1-867-537-2677

Pelly RCMP Complaints Line

1-867-537-5555

Conservation Tips Hotline

1-800-661-0525

Pelly Crossing Health Center

1-867- 537- 4444

Yukon Distress and Support Line

1-844-533-3030

Yukon Women's Transition Home

1-867-668-5733

Kids Help Phone

1-800-668-6868

Mailing address: Selkirk First Nation P.O. Box 40, Pelly Crossing, YT, Y0B 1P0

Website: www.selkirkfn.com, Facebook page: Selkirk FirstNation, email: communications@selkirkfn.com