



Selkirk First Nation



Spring 2017

SFN News • Volume 13 • Issue 1

Share, Care, Teach, Respect



# Hets Eday

## Telling Stories

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**Photo:** Spring is here! ECDC  
children on a spring outing,  
enjoying the mild weather.

[www.selkirkfn.com](http://www.selkirkfn.com)

## A message from your Chief

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that 6 years have gone by since I was first elected as the Chief of Selkirk First Nation. When I became our nation's leader, I didn't realize how much of a personal investment was encompassed within the honor and livelihood of being Chief.

My role as Chief was to oversee all elements of government operations. It didn't take long to come to the conclusion that trust in the people that work for the government that dedicate themselves to the organization is necessary. To believe in their capabilities and encourage the efficacy of a constructive governing body is fundamental in building a strong nation. As an overseer, you have to trust, be open, engaged and truly committed to the organization and our people.

When a tragedy happens to one of your citizens or to the community, you question yourself for those circumstances require a significant and sensitive approach. My goal as Chief was to make a positive difference in the lives of my people and community; to serve them as best as I could.

As Chief, you have to look at the bigger picture to run an effective government. It's not always easy to maintain an objective perspective with the heart of the community in mind as we come upon many subjective issues, however it's crucial to remember that resiliency matched with immense support from the people is required to rebuild a community in de-colonial resurgence. As a visionary, it is my hope for our people to become empowered with the confidence in building their personal as well as professional skills and ethics to increase our capacity as a nation; to overcome the challenges and develop healthy coping mechanisms through the trauma and loss we have experienced; and



re-culturalization by implementing our traditions and language with a strong and irrepressible strategy to engage all Citizens.

I've worn many hats throughout the 6 years in order to get different jobs done. There are many responsibilities and a lot of pressure that comes with being Chief – from being the leader of your First Nation to representing your people on national and territorial levels. It's vital to be mindful in speaking honorably to represent the best interest of the people and to make prospective decisions with the future of our people in mind.

Throughout the years, our government has grown. Many of our Citizens present various employment capacities within our government. We continue to build capacity and gain knowledge. We have weathered the low prices of resources within the mine industry while remaining focused on our priorities such as Education, Housing, Using and Protecting the Land, and Healing.

As a government, we have achieved momentous milestones. We have developed a progressive working relationship with the mine industry while making them accountable for the development they initiated. When Capstone came to our traditional territory, we made sure that our

## Farewell from Chief and Council

Citizens would benefit from the Minto Mine. We have ensured an adequate reclamation closure security. When I became Chief the security was set at 4 Million dollars, I found this extremely inadequate therefore renegotiated the security to 70 Millions dollars. As the stewards of the land, we uphold and honour our ancestors.

We continue to focus on our youth, developing their confidence and their pride in our Northern Tutchone culture. We host on-the-land activities, which offer opportunities for all to celebrate and take part in important community and cultural events. The Spirit Dancers continue to excel as they showcase our culture to the world outside.

As a government, our work will never be done. We will strive to continue strengthening our governance, our people, and continue revitalizing our heritage and language.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to the Citizens for the opportunity to be your Chief. I am thankful to have been part of this government. Because of it, I have grown into a much more rounded individual. I implore you to make a commitment to the wellbeing of our community, our children and youth, our elders, and to persevere in continuing personal development for healing and aspirations.

Mussi Cho/Thank you.



**Left to right:** Chief Kevin McGinty, Councillors Shaheen Baker, Ashley VanBibber, Lori Sims, Milly Johnson,  
**Front:** Annabell Vance-Kurenoff. **Absent:** George Magrum



## Farewell from Council

### **Annabell Vance-Kurenoff, Elder Councillor**

I have really enjoyed working with the Selkirk First Nation Council as the Elder. It has given me the opportunity to learn more about the culture, and the people of Selkirk First Nation. Growing up, I did not have the opportunity to learn about these things. Since then, I have learned of people's experiences of being away from their families and what they had to go through at residential schools.

As Elder Councillor, I learned more about the culture, about growing up on the land, and what people did to make a better life for themselves. Although I did not go through that myself, my Dad went hunting, but we didn't have to rely on it, we bought groceries at the store; we didn't have to have our survival dependent on what came from the land.

I am proud that we are moving forward in getting our Early Childhood Development Centre being built, along with the housing initiatives that we completed; building new housing and renovating a number of houses. I am hopeful that more will be done in this area as it is a great need in the community.

One of the highlights for me during my term was the Elders trip to Edmonton. This was a highlight since this had never been done before. It gave our Elders a chance to see what other First Nations experience and how Selkirk First Nation compares to them.

I am also proud of the beautification projects that we do on a yearly basis to keep the community looking nice, as well as the Elders sewing circles that are happening, and getting the Youth out on the land through

*overnight trips or weekly camps.*

I am hoping that we made a difference to the Citizens and the Youth of Pelly through some of the programs and initiatives that we put forward in the last 3 years. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as Elder Councillor, but it is time for me to retire. There are some things that I would like to do this summer including visiting Fort Selkirk!

### **Milly Johnson, Crow Councillor**

I would like to thank the community for allowing me to serve as Crow Councillor for the last two terms. It was challenging but I have enjoyed my time on Council. As a leader, and on behalf of the Crow Clan, I did my best to represent the Crow Clan in a positive way.

One highlight for me has been getting the finances of Selkirk First Nation straightened out to where the Council now has a clear financial picture of the First Nation. And in addition, the First Nation is in a much better position financially compared to when we first came in 6 years ago.

I am proud that there are a few Citizens who have accomplished their sobriety; I feel proud for them as well as proud of the number of people who are working towards a healthy lifestyle.

Hopefully, the Citizens have found that their requests and needs for programs and services have been met. At the beginning of my term, I set personal goals to continue encouraging young people and individuals to live a healthy lifestyle and build a healthy community. Although we had some challenges, the hope

## Farewell from Chief and Council

is that positive changes will continue to be a message for our future.

### **Lori Sims, Wolf Councillor**

Approaching the end of my term, of six years of Office as Deputy Chief and Wolf Councillor for Selkirk First Nation, is becoming a bittersweet moment. Closing this chapter and opening a new chapter will be sad yet exciting at the same time.

Over the years, I've certainly encountered the highs and lows during my time in office, but have certainly enjoyed the political experience. The sacrifices, commitment, juggling, balancing, demands, challenges, celebrations, achievements, has been a roller coaster ride, but when seeing movement at the end of the day, it's all worth the effort.

The ties that I've developed with staff and my fellow Council members will be difficult when it comes time to say farewell. Looking back and knowing the accomplishments over the last six years is a good way to close this chapter. Seeing the change, and knowing that many helped make this happen, is a blessing. I'd like to say I greatly appreciate the efforts by all. I couldn't have done this without all the hard work from such a great team. Thank you to all for helping accomplish the goals for the Community.

Leadership - the qualities demonstrated by Chief McGinty, Elder Annabell Vance-Kurenoff, Councillor Milly Johnson, Councillor Ashley Edzerza, Youth Councillor Shaheen Baker, and Councillor George Magrum are many: Awareness, Decisiveness, Empathy, Accountability, Confidence, Optimism, Honestly, Focus, Inspiration and Dedication. Unity is strength, thank you for working in

collaboration to reach the goals set forth, and for your patience while I questioned the details in the work we did.

Family - the encouragement and support I received kept me focused, grounded and on task with the priorities. This support made my term a lot more structured from beginning to end, which has made me a stronger person to continue serving as a Leader. I sincerely thank my best friend and partner Dwayne, my supportive and understanding son Cody, whom was 12 when I entered into office and is now a young adult, my family for being my rock, my friends for their endless support, my colleagues for being supportive and skillful, my elders for their knowledge and guidance, and the Citizens for their support, prayers of strength and guidance.

As the transition begins with new Leadership, I'd like to say "hats off" to those that have stepped up to the plate. The Oath, honoring of the traditional code of conduct, respect, sharing, caring and teaching is a key value to uphold.

My message of support to the future Leadership, "take this position as an honor, the people have trust in you, as we are in this together". I was given a message by a past Crow Councillor that I would like to pass down as well: "As a new Leader, please keep me, myself, and I out of the equation" this is one trait of a good Leader. The SFN Constitution is your 'bible', created by the past and current, it captures the mandates, roles and responsibilities, values... use this document as your tool for guidance."

In closing, my journey is to concentrate on the wellbeing of myself, family time and my career as the ECDC Manager. Seeing through

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# Farewell from Chief and Council

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the construction of the new ECDC building for the little SFN Citizens is a priority for me. I will also continue my role as an advocate for quality Education for all, in keeping alive the document "Together Today for our Children Tomorrow".

Once rested, I am willing to assist in any capacity, to help ensure the First Nation continues to prosper and move forward in unity. As many know, I'm overly dedicated to my First Nation, or a trait I inherited by my parents 'a workaholic'.

## **Ashley VanBibber, Crow Councillor**

First, I would like to thank you, Citizens, for giving me this awesome opportunity to sit as your Crow Councillor for the last 3 years. I've learnt a lot from my co-council members and our government processes. I'm sad that our term is ending as there is still so much that needs to be done. I'd like to send my best wishes to all candidates that are running in the upcoming SFN Election. It's a tough job and if you're willing to take it on then good on you!

We, as a people, need to help and support Council. If we don't stand together, then how can we accomplish greatness? The Chief and Council jobs are hard enough without having to listen to rude comments or insults. We need to be united.

Secondly, I would like to thank some individuals that helped me through my learning process when I first started as a Councillor. I would like to thank, first and foremost, my husband who talked me into running 3 years ago and remained by my side throughout my term; my family for their love and support, I would not have been able to do this without them; Albert Drapeau, former SFN Executive Director, for guiding me

through the government processes and the countless hours I spent at his desk when I didn't know or understand. Thank you to the support staff that were always there when needed. Last but not least, thank you to the Council members for your support and patience as I was learning the ropes.

It was an amazing learning curve, and one day I hope to be elected to sit as your leader again.

## **Shaheen Baker, Youth Councillor**

I ran for office because I care about our community and thought I didn't know much about how our self-government worked so I was determined to learn. I intended to have a positive impact on the Chief, Councillors and the community by taking on the Youth Councillor position. I was hoping to be a role model for the youth and others. I am not running again because I have plans to work and continue my education.

When I got in as Youth Councillor I wanted to engage the youth in government and leadership and plan activities. Such as culture camps, circle ceremonies, travelling, etc.

In the beginning of my term, I was accepted in a six-month youth exchange program that took place in Africa and Ontario. The Chief and Councillors agreed to let me go on this life-changing program. I was not present when they did the orientation and the three-year plan. Which was an important part to becoming a Chief or Councillor. When I returned, my thought about having activities with the youth was not realistic. It was later in my term that I realised my role was not what I expected. I learned that the Youth Councillor position is more political, being part of making hard decisions and that I was a councillor just like the others but representing the youth.

## Farewell from Chief and Council

Learning the roles and the responsibilities, as a youth on Council was a struggle at first, finding my place took time. I realised that I was to serve all Citizens equally and not just the youth. That was a huge task. It would have helped if to have an Orientation or role expectations set out for the Youth Councillor position. The commitment and sacrifices that is required was overwhelming but I was ready and enjoyed the challenge.

What I liked about my role was the learning experience and the knowledge I gained. I now have a good understanding of how our self-government works. I am proud of the SFN staff. There is so much hard work done within the organization. I enjoyed times when people including Elders would tell stories or speak their mind about what they thought is important. I learned that people cannot be too serious in this type of work. That there is a need to maintain a balance in the mind, body and spirit, and that it is very important to take care of yourself or it will be easy for a person to be overwhelmed. The achievements we have done and the thank you letters and cards that sometimes came along with it are very rewarding.

I hope the next Youth Councillor is ready to learn and is committed. I encourage lots of reading. Read and get familiar with the Constitution and the policies. I suggest that the youth who takes on this position walks into leadership with an open mind and heart.

It has been an honour to serve as the Youth Councillor for three years. I'm very grateful for those who have provided guidance and support along the way, Mussi Cho to my family, my mother who has encouraged me when things got tough, the youth and all the Citizens for their support and encouragement during my term. I'm thankful for the Chief and Councillors, it has been a pleasure working with each of them, they are all amazing leaders and everyone of them have had a positive impact on my growth. The SFN staff for all their

hard work. I'm grateful to have witnessed our achievements as Chief and Council and for the knowledge shared by our Elders.

I will continue to strive for the betterment of our community. Thank you all and farewell for now.

### George Magrum, Councillor

Councillor George Magrum is currently on leave.

## SFN Election Results

**Chief:** Sharon Nelson

### Councillors:

**Crow:** Nesta Hager &  
Teddy Charlie

**Wolf:** George McGinty &  
Dean Gill

**Elder:** Milly Johnson

**Youth:** Morris Morrison

## April 2017 Important Dates

### April 12, 2017

Swearing-in Ceremony:  
New Council

### April 14, 2017

STAT holiday –Good Friday

### April 17, 2017

STAT holiday – Easter Monday



# Council Highlights (January, February, March 2017)

Since the last update in December, the Chief and Councillors have been busy with a variety of Council duties. With the Councillors having regular full time jobs, it can be difficult to keep up with the demands of government. The following are some of the highlights of the Council since the last Newsletter update December 2016.

**Regular Council meetings** are held every second Tuesday with standard business conducted. This includes approving Funding Agreements, contracts and other Agreements such as on-going leases for Selkirk Development Corporation to operate the summer tourist business, along with responding to requests.

**Special Called meetings** are held when additional time is needed for in-depth discussions such as with Capital, for Policy development, receiving updates and providing direction for on-going negotiation files, etc.

**Governing Bodies:** The Council meets with the Family Heads and Elders Council on a regular basis as part of building strong working relationships.

**Doòli / Elders Gathering:** Chief McGinty and Councillor Sims attended the Doòli gathering on February 14th for a Traditional Naming workshop; they provided opening remarks and welcomed the Northern Tutchone Elders and Citizens to Selkirk. The workshop focused on gathering information from Elders and others around how naming ceremonies were done in the past, with discussions on how to put a plan in place for Traditional Place Names and naming ceremonies. "Traditional naming came close to being lost due to the impacts of residential school. There are youth without traditional names; bringing back ceremonies such as this is giving power back to the people through their traditional names." Further work will continue.

**RCMP:** The Council held a final interagency meeting with RCMP where a regular update was provided along with the Council giving their input into the RCMP Annual Performance Planning. The Council will continue with the priorities given the previous year (Vulnerable People, Relationship with the community and youth, Cultural Interaction / Awareness) with the addition of impaired driving. The RCMP will discuss their priorities with the new Council.



**Above:** Interagency update meeting



## Council Highlights

**Yukon Forum:** In early January, Chief McGinty attended the Yukon Forum with the new Yukon Government; the agenda focused on restating and restarting the relationship with Yukon First Nations. The Forum started with a traditional dance from the Selkirk Spirit Dancers. After the dance, Youth Councillor, Shaheen Baker, remained at the meeting as part of her learning experience of being a Youth Councillor. Chief McGinty noted how proud he felt as he watched the effect that the Selkirk Spirit Dancers had on the audience. It's through these kinds of events that build pride of our culture.

**Education:** With Education being one of the stated priorities of this Council, Councillors Lori Sims and Milly Johnson attended Education related meetings that had a Territorial-wide focus. It is important for Selkirk to have a presence at these tables, to be aware of the current status of the educational system and planned changes, while ensuring that a First Nation community voice is considered.

At the Education summit Yukon First Nation and Government officials, teachers and educators came together to discuss Reconciliation and Culture inclusion in schools; what this means and how it can be done. This was done through sharing stories and holding discussions on the process of cultural inclusion, the program itself and the partnerships that are needed to work on building the First Nations identity in the school. The culture and identity of the nation should be the first thing that is noticed when coming into the school. This work is on-going and will take time to implement.

At the CYFN School Visioning workshop in February, 14 Yukon First Nations came together to review the current education challenges and looked at curriculum development in the area of Reconciliation. This is part of the work being done on bringing culture into the school by having language and culture as part of the curriculum going forward.

In March, **Community information** meetings were held on two of the mining projects on Selkirk lands, including a Goldcorp (formerly Kaminak project) community meeting and a Minto Mine update.

Information was presented on the two projects, with Goldcorp providing information on their plans with the regulatory processes.

As their term comes to an end, the Council will review a draft Operating Budget and Department work plans. This is to ensure that Departments can continue working on their initiatives until the new Council has had transition time and receives initial briefings and any required training.

**Upcoming meetings** for the remainder of the term includes a meeting with the Minister of Community Services (John Strieker) where community development and infrastructure needs will be discussed; a community tour is planned with the Minister to demonstrate the need in the community.

A final SDC Quarterly meeting will be held with the SDC Board of Directors with final updates given on ongoing initiatives. This meeting was planned for early in the month but was postponed due to the extreme cold conditions in early March.

**Intergovernmental Forum (IGF):** On March 16, Chief McGinty and Councillors Ashley Van Bibber Edzerza, Lori Sims and Elder, Roger Alfred attended the Intergovernmental Forum in Whitehorse. Federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Carolyn Bennett attended the meeting along with Yukon First Nations and CYFN Grand Chief, Peter Johnston. Thursday's meeting provided an opportunity for governments to get updates on common priorities including reconciliation initiatives such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and Bill C-17 to amend the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA)

...continued on next page...

## Council Highlights

Various intergovernmental fiscal matters were a key discussion item and a presentation on the Arctic policy framework rounded out the meeting.

**Staff Recognition:** Council held the annual Long Service Awards with a BBQ and ice fishing for all staff members at Lhutsaw with special recognition given to employees who reached milestone years. It has been important for Council to recognize those who have shown their commitment to the organization and encourage long-term employment.

**New Council Oath of Office:** The Elders Council have set the Swearing in date for the new Council on April 12, 2017. There will be a Ceremony along with a Celebration to say thank you to the outgoing Council. Watch for postings for more information.



## Long Service Awards

SFN recognises annually their employees with long Service Awards. We believe it is important to recognise individuals who work with dedication and commitment to serve Citizens and the public.

### This year's recipients:

Sharon Morrison	5 years
Frances Gill	5 years
Darcy Marcotte	10 years
Gina Gill	10.5 years
Styd Johnson	10 years
Darren Johnnie	10 years
Frederick Johnnie	10 years
Roger Alfred	15 years
Sharon Nelson	15.5 years
Lori Sims	15.5 years
Ellie Marcotte	15.5 years
Kevin McGinty	20 years
Julia Joe	20.5 years
Lucy McGinty	25 years
Mona Silverfox	25 years
Mary McGinty	30 years



**Left and Above:** Staff recognition Long Service Award

## Elders Council Update

SFN Elders have started regular meetings with Leadership. The Elders have requested this for years. The regular meetings with Leaders should continue monthly. This is a good chance for the Leaders and Elders to work together.

The Elders are also thankful to current Leadership for always supporting the Doòli Program and making it strong. Attending the Doòli workshop was eye-opening to a lot of our young people who were never raised with Doòli.

The biggest eye-opener for our Elders was the Edmonton trip. This trip made them realise how much the First Nation does for them. The Elders

really appreciated this opportunity. They are still talking about that trip. Elders would like to continue these kinds of trips to educate our Elders on what other First Nations are doing.

### Elders Future plans:

- Holding an Elders Conference with the 3 Northern Tutchone communities.
- Having each SFN Department work with the Doòli Program.
- Hiring an assistant to support the Elders Program for meetings, etc.

Elders Coordinator, Emma Alfred

## New Carving at the Taylor House in Whitehorse

Commissioners Coat of Arms carved by Eugene Alfred now hangs in Taylor House as a gift from the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Yukoners who visit the Commissioners residence in downtown Whitehorse are now greeted by the work of our very own Eugene Alfred.

Legislative Assembly Speaker Nils Clarke presented Commissioner Doug Phillips with a Commissioners Coat of Arms carved out of yellow cedar by Eugene Alfred which now hangs in the entranceway to Taylor House.

Phillips says the piece shows the cooperation between his office and First Nations, and the connection of lifestyles.

"I've been trying to get some First Nations art into this building since I started, and I have a few of my own First Nation pieces that I put in my office but this is significant."

Eugene got the wood from Terrace, B.C., had it cured and laminated locally then it took about five months to carve.



"I was quite honoured to be able to do this piece. It's not quite what I normally do. I don't usually carve Huskies. I was happy to do it."

For his efforts, Phillips presented Alfred with the first ever Commissioners coin, which is a gold coin with the Commissioners coat of arms on one side, and Taylor House on the other.





**Above:** A well deserved rest for the mushers and dog teams at the Pelly check point

## Yukon Quest in Pelly Crossing

This year Selkirk First Nation welcomed approximately 50 dog teams to Pelly Crossing from both the Yukon Quest and Quest 300 dogsled races.

The Yukon Quest teams travelled from Whitehorse to Fairbanks this year. Hugh Neff was the first musher into Pelly Crossing and received a pair of handmade mitts by Freda Alfred as a welcoming gift from the First Nation.

The Quest 300 racers travel from Whitehorse to Pelly Crossing, then to Pelly Farm and back to Pelly Crossing. This distance equals 300 kilometers. Michelle Phillips was the winning racer and received a pair of handmade mitts made by Amy Johnny as a welcoming gift from the First Nation.

The Eliza VanBibber School ran another successful 'Questeraunt' as part of their fundraising efforts for the grads. It was well



**Above:** Musher Hugh Neff



## Events

attended by both the Quest mushers and workers, along with community members enjoying this temporary restaurant. The First Nation hired a SFN Checkpoint manager, David Bennett, to help ensure the event was well managed.

Elder Councillor, Annabell Vance-Kurenoff, attended the Quest 300 Banquet where awards were presented. Elders also attended this Banquet with Elder Coordinator, Emma Alfred who offered the Opening Prayer.

Natalie Hatch, the Executive Director of the Yukon Quest met with the Chief and Council

to discuss the success of this race, how it is growing each year and what this means to Pelly Crossing and Selkirk First Nation. As we work on building the relationship, the First Nation will be involved with evaluating this year's race to see where improvements can be made for next year.

The First Nation wishes to continue supporting the Yukon Quest as dogs and working dog teams play an intricate role in Northern Tutchone culture. As well, the community looks forward to having the dog teams come through town with people coming out to cheer them on.

# THANK YOU!

*Selkirk First Nation*

On behalf of the Yukon Quest International Association (Canada) thank you for generously partnering in the successful running of the 34th Yukon Quest!

February 4, 2017 Whitehorse, YT to Fairbanks, AK





## Lands & Resources Update

### SFN Salmon Management Plan and Sonar

The Selkirk First Nation Lands and Resources Department continues to work on their Pelly River Salmon Management Plan. As a self-governing First Nation, SFN would like to continue to direct the management of salmon on the Pelly River and within our Traditional Territory.

Following a successful year of the Pelly River sonar (fish counting station), there is a proposal to have the sonar kept in place for one full salmon cycle (approximately six years). The sonar is a key tool for the management of Pelly River salmon and will help SFN count the fish and make well-informed decisions for the future.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee and other Yukon First Nations are aware of the efforts to manage and conserve salmon that SFN has made over the last few years and would like to learn more. They have asked SFN Lands and Resources to make a presentation on the management plan, sonar and other efforts at the upcoming Yukon River Panel meetings in Whitehorse. This presentation will share SFN's innovative and traditional approach to Alaskans, agencies and other Yukon First Nations.

SFN Lands and Resources Team held an open house on February 27th to gather more community perspectives on salmon management for Selkirk Citizens. The plan will be completed in the spring of 2017 prior to the arrival of the salmon. The plan will support Selkirk management and communication efforts this year and will ensure that fish camp culture on SFN Traditional Territory continues to thrive.



**Above:** Getting Citizens input at the open house

**Below:** Map of SFN Traditional Territory



### The SFN Lands & Resources Department has two new members!

Marissa Blackjack is the new Lands Administrative Assistant and Betty Baptiste is the new Lands Manager. Welcome to the team, Marissa and Betty!

## Department updates

### Captstone – Minto Mine

As Selkirk First Nation approaches the 20 years anniversary in July of becoming a self-governing nation and as the citizens of Selkirk embark on the election process for the Selkirk Chief and Council I would like to take a moment to thank the citizens of Selkirk and the Selkirk Chief and Council for the support shown to the Minto Explorations Ltd., Minto Mine over the many years of our partnership.

We would like to thank the Selkirk leadership, Chief McGinty and Council for their devotion to the community and for the time and effort put forth working with the Minto Mine to develop opportunities in operations and employee development. The leadership has also been instrumental in providing

guidance and direction as we advance with our Reclamation work and Closure Planning.

We would like to wish Chief Kevin McGinty and the members of the Selkirk First Nation Council continued success in their future endeavours as they move to their next journey in life.

In the coming months we look forward to meeting and working closely and in consultation with the new Selkirk Leadership, Chief and Council while continuing to develop and expand on our partnership to provide benefits to the Selkirk Citizens and community of Pelly Crossing.

Mussi Cho

Ron Light, Mine General Manager, Minto Mine



**Above:** Heritage Day hosted by EVB School

## Heritage Update

**Heritage Day:** On February 24th, 2017, the Eliza Van Bibber School students participated in Heritage Day by researching topics that pertain to their Northern Tutchone Heritage.

The students did research by interviewing their parents and grandparents, getting in touch with Elders, and asking Heritage for information and also online research.





### Northern Tutchone Workshop

On February 14 & 15, Selkirk First Nation hosted a naming workshop with elders from Mayo, Pelly and Carmacks (photo above).

In the days of the *Hudę Hudän* (Long-Ago-People), everyone was known by their *Dän K'i* name. There were no English names, until the first *K'uch'än* traders and missionaries came to the country we now call Yukon. They began to give people English names, like Hootalingqua Sam, or Old Isaac.

Eventually, most *Dän* became baptized with an English name, although they still carried their *Dän K'i* name, as well. This is also the time when the *K'uch'än* started sending *Dän* children to school, imposing their laws on the *Dän*, and building larger towns and roads. This is the time “in-between” the days of the *Hudę Hudän* and *Akän dzenu* (today). During this time, *Dän* people often avoided using their traditional names because they had experienced so much judgement and grief from the *K'uch'än* about their native language.

*Akän dzenu*, most *Dän* people still have traditional *Dän K'i* names, although some younger people either do not have names, or do not know their name or its history. Knowledge of the oldest names, which have

been passed down from many generations before, could be lost if it is not documented and passed on.

This workshop was planned by the *Doòli Dän K'i team* (the “D-Team”), which includes Elders and First Nations staff from all three Northern Tutchone communities.

In moving forward, Elders would like to gather people from the three communities, and especially to give the Elders a chance to talk to each other and help each other remember the oldest names. The D-Team continues working on this important project.

### Tatlamun Lake Cultural Camp:

On February 17th, Carmen Baker from Social Programs and Teri-Lee Isaac from Heritage Coordinated a Cultural Camp at Tatlamun Lake.

The camp is intended for families to get out on the land and enjoy traditional teachings from the Elders. A variety of activities were organized such as fishing, making traditional medicine, drum making, set snares, making traditional crafts and storytelling. The camp was full and participants left content and rejuvenated. We look forward in doing this every year.





## Recreation Update

### Go Cubs Go!!!

Big Thanks to the crew that made it possible for the Selkirk Cubs team to take part in their very first Native Hockey Tournament in Whitehorse: SFN Recreation Coordinator, Jeremy Harper, parent, Lori Sims, parent, Scott Sawyer, Cubs coaches Morris Morrison and Shaun Roberts.

We appreciate and are thankful for our team jersey sponsored by SFN Recreation and Council. We also would like to thank our sponsors for our team hoody Jim Harper and Robert Halloway.

Special thank you to Adam at Green Screen Printing for the speedy service.

The team gave it their all over the weekend, didn't win but received the Native Hockey Tournament Spirit Award for their enthusiasm and sportmanship.





# Department updates

## Recreation (continued)



**Above Left:** John Chabot training camp February 2017. **Above right:** Adult training camp.



**Above:** Bringing home the Gold: Selkirk Bears win 1st place for "A" division at the Rendezvous Hockey Tournament, Whitehorse February 2017.

**Right:** Selkirk Curling Champions, place 1st in "A" Category at the Carmacks Annual Curling Bonspiel, February 2017.





## Department updates



**Bottom-left:** Selkirk Remix, 1st place winners of the 19th Annual Rendezvous Handgame Championship: Waylon Hager, Sheri Wrixon, Tannis Charlie, Richard Sims, Shaheen Baker, absent from photo Cody Sims

**Bottom-right:** Selkirk Thunders won 2nd place at the 19th Annual Rendezvous Handgame Championship. Left to right: Havannah Baker, Madison Gill, Tate VanBibber, Jaden Morrison, Damien Sims, Sierra Johnny



### Citizen Development Update

We represent SFN by attending meetings with CYFN, collaborating with other SFN Departments and Programs as well as with external agencies such as CYFN, Yukon College, EVB School, Yukon Government and local employers for the purpose of promoting opportunities and creating partnerships in support of citizen development. We also assist in other activities that pertain to Citizen Development.

Graduation season is in the air and is fast approaching. This year, there are 4 potential

graduates from Eliza Van Bibber School. The CYFN Graduation is scheduled for May 2nd in Whitehorse by the river at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

### New Services in Education and Training Department

The Education Department was busy with our new 'Community at Risk Fund' (CAR) Program funded through the ASETS. CAR is a program targeted towards youth ages 15 to 30. The goal of this fund is to increase Youth numbers funded through ASETS/Labour Market Programming. A training program has been developed consisting of a series of workshops and on the job training. The program started January 2017 and continued to March 2017.

The Education Department is also running Maintainer Program: Start Project. This program will continue until April 30th, 2017. The Start Maintainer Program provides all the support for our SFN Citizens to become Red Seal Certified in carpentry. Five SFN Citizens started the program last October and completed the Trades introduction, 'hands-on course'. All 5 SFN students returned to the Pelly Campus in January to continue the next phase of their learning in Academic Preparation and Work experience, which will be completed on April 30th, 2017.

Two groups of SFN Citizens (nine (9) adults and 15 students) participated in a workshop offered by BYTE, Empowering Youth. BYTE focuses on empowering and promoting youth throughout the Yukon. BYTE hosted events and workshops at the Pelly Campus and also at EVBS providing workshops in Career Decision Making, Career Cruising, Critical thinking, Leadership, Life-skills/wellness, Job-training. Our local Elders are involved in Language (traditional & cultural Life-skills) teachings and one of our local Selkirk Citizen and artist, Eugene Alfred, held a workshop on Tool making/Carving.

### TUTORING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS!

We know that learning continues outside the classroom and that students and parents need access to resources.

Does your child need help improving their grades? The Citizen Development Department will be offering individual tutoring services to Eliza Van Bibber School students in grades 1 to 12. We have hired a tutor who can work with your child's curriculum and homework to address their unique educational needs, as well as help them focus, stay organized, prioritize, and study more effectively.

Tutoring services are available Monday to Thursday, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (hours are flexible), during the school year.

Contact Tara Roberts, Director Citizen Development at **537-3331** for further information.



## Department Updates

Congratulations to two of our Selkirk Citizens, Kiefer Johnnie and Brandon Brown who graduated on January 30th, 2017 from the Trades Program: Heavy Equipment Technician Yukon College, Whitehorse Yukon.

### Post-Secondary Education

First, SFN would like to acknowledge all the hard-working Selkirk First Nation students and their commitment to their studies as they blaze their own trail towards their educational pursuits.

Selkirk is currently funding 26 Post-Secondary Students. We have students based all over Canada from Whitehorse, British Columbia, Alberta, Québec, to one in the United States. SFN offers as much support to the students when called upon and we do our best to address their needs. On January 27th, 2017, SFN hosted a Yukon College student luncheon. This is an opportunity to touch base with the Whitehorse students to see how they are doing and what support SFN can offer them.

The SFN Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Administrator sits on the Presidents Advisory Committee on First Nations Initiatives (PACFNI). This Committee is comprised of representatives from different First Nations in the Yukon that administer their Post-Secondary program. The Committee meets on a quarterly basis and gives recommendations to the First Nations Initiatives department at Yukon College for the different programs they offer. The last meeting was in January 2017. This table offers SFN staff an opportunity to learn about new the different programs offered and give recommendations when needed.

The PSE Administrator would like to encourage all SFN Citizens to pursue their own educational quest. Expanding your own knowledge is one of the best tools you can use to better yourself and ensure a brighter future. Come and talk to the PSE Administrator if you have any questions or concerns about the SFN PSE Funding Program.

## Deadlines for Application Post Secondary Funding

Fall Semester: **July 15**

Winter Semester: **November 15**

Spring/Summer Semester: **March 15**

Please contact Jessica Alfred for an application package at [pse@selkirkfn.com](mailto:pse@selkirkfn.com) or 867.537.3331 ext. 504

## Capital Update

Over the past three years, the Capital Department has focused on housing in the community based on the Council priority of Providing Safe Housing.

### Housing – What Has Been Done

- 138 Housing Inspections
- Numerous Air Quality and Radon Testing throughout homes in the Community
- New Houses – 8
- New Mobile Homes – 3
- Major Renovations – 8 completed, 2 still pending
- Minor Renovations including bathrooms, ramp/deck, kitchens, arctic entries, exterior door covers, septic fields, eaves troughs, grade work, and insulation upgrades.
- Minor repairs to residential housing such as decks, doors, windows, doorknobs, lights, etc.
- Residential purchases for heating and ventilation: furnaces, monitors and wood stoves along with chimneys and new fuel tanks.

Other work in the Capital Department in the past three years have included Water Plant upgrades and replacement of computer system and the replacement of the chlorination machine.

Capital continues to offer Community Services including snow clearing on roads, garbage pickups and septic pump-outs.

*...continued on next page...*

## Department Updates

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Capital also oversees SFN building upgrades. This year, Capital upgraded the SFN Administration building's staff kitchen which included installing equipment to improve air quality. Capital will also be removing carpets and installing flooring.

The staff at Capital are always ready to assist other departments by filling fuel tanks, environmental cleanups, setting up for the summer tourist season, helping with Yukon Quest and other community events.

In 2016/17, the Capital Department secured approximately \$420,000 in funding which was used for heating, lot servicing and water plant work. SFN will also get funding from CanNor for upgrades and much needed work on the Link Building. The work will start this year and will be completed in 2017/18. Accessing outside funding sources means that we can accomplish more.

Scott Sawyer has been Acting Capital Director in the past year while Adam VanBibber was on extended leave. Thank you Scott for stepping in! Adam has resigned from his position and we wish him well in his endeavours. Darcy Marcotte was recently hired as the new Capital Director.

## Health & Social Update

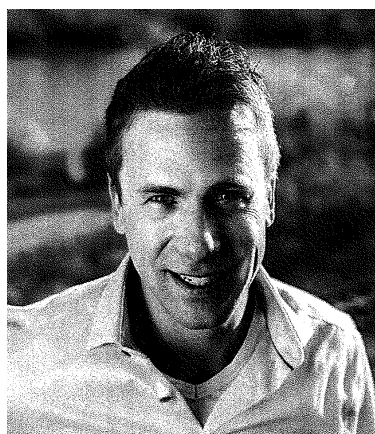
Health and Social has hired a new Community Mental Health Counselor, Jonathan Van Viegen. He will work a few days per month. Contact the SFN Health and Social Department for more information.

The H Pylori Project will launch project soon. We will host public meetings to explain what the team will do and how the testing for H pylori will be carried out.

Mental Health training is scheduled for April 10 and 11th, 2017. This is open to all staff and the community. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity.

Health and social will be developing a Mental Wellness Plan with an emphasis on traditional knowledge on how we best can work on the issue.

Lastly, Health and Social and Council have been working on a Community Safety Plan similar to what Kwanlin Dün did for its community. We hope to embark upon this initiative in the new fiscal year. A safety plan can include many things such as clearing around the community, lighting,



**Meet Jonathan  
at Health & Social**  
or call 867-335-7640!

### MEET JONATHAN!

Jonathan Van Viegen is a Canadian Certified Counsellor and has recently joined the Health and Social department at Selkirk First Nation as the Mental Health Counsellor.

Counselling and support services in Pelly Crossing are 100% private and confidential.

If you feel you would like to meet Jonathan for counselling and support services or would like help in making a positive change in your life, feel free to drop by Health and Social or call 867-335-7640 for more info.

Check out the following dates Jonathan is in Pelly Crossing:

**Mon, April 17**  
9am to 5pm

**Tues, Aprils 18**  
9am to 5pm

# Department Updates

beautification, removal of old vehicles, discussions on social issues and developing safety measures for children, youth, women, men and elders.

Yukon Government has assigned a social worker for Pelly 3 times a week. She will be working in the Health and Social office. Yukon Government's Family and Children Services is sponsoring our project on traditional knowledge of Custom Adoption. We hope to begin this in the new fiscal year.

## Committee Updates

### Finance Committee

Committee Members: Lois Joe, Zachary Fulton, Albert Drapeau, Sharon Nelson

The Finance Committee has reviewed their Terms of Reference and identified the following work to be completed:

- Prepare Draft Finance Policies. The first rough draft is completed and ready for input from SFN Council.
- Prepare an Investment Policy for the Royalty Fund and recruit investment managers.
- Monitor the implementation of the 2016 Royalty Policy and Special Purposes Fund.
- Review the Selkirk Investment Policy (compensation fund, tax buyout fund) and consider changes to present to General Assembly. The purpose of reviewing the Policy is to determine if changes can be made to get a better return on investments.

#### Other regular duties:

- Review quarterly financial statements (2016-17)
- Monitor Quarterly investment reports – DLK Trust
- Review 2017-18 budget submissions
- Review draft Audit report and any management letter

The Finance Committee receives presentations

regularly from the SFN Executive Advisor and Finance Director.

### Constitution Committee

Committee Members: Candice Menzi, Dorothy Mitander-Graham, Nesta Hager, Lizzie Hall

The Constitution Committee has reviewed their Terms of Reference and related General Assembly resolutions and determined the following as their upcoming workplan:

1. Code of Conduct (GA Resolution). A draft Code of Conduct Act has been prepared. The Committee will be reviewing the draft with the Administration for further input. The Committee will also be working with the Doòli Team to ensure traditional Code of Conduct is incorporated as much as possible. Other Governing Bodies will also be consulted. Once a draft is prepared, the Committee will consult with Selkirk Citizens.
2. Consultation Protocol for Selkirk First Nation. The 2016 Special Assembly advised the Committee to consult with Selkirk Citizens on what a Consultation Protocol should be for Selkirk when consulting with Citizens on Acts, etc. The Committee will begin by researching other protocols available for review. Once the Committee has prepared questions to discuss with Selkirk Citizens, they will be setting up engagement sessions with Selkirk Citizens.
3. Residency Requirement for Chief Candidates. The 2016 Special Assembly also directed the Committee to consult with Selkirk Citizens on the Residency Requirement for Chief candidates in an Election.
4. Governance Act. The Committee's terms of reference identifies many areas to review in the Constitution and it is their initial thoughts that many sections would be better suited in a Governance Act. This will require further Committee deliberation, including whether a Code of Conduct and Consultation Protocol should be included or stand alone.



## RCMP Update



**Above:** Constable Andrew Imrie and his father John Imrie, who was visiting from Barrie, Ontario. Photo Culture Camp at Tatlamun Lake on February 19, 2017.



**Top Right:** Corporal Ken Boone and Constable Imrie's father, John Imrie, on Tatlamun Lake on February 19, 2017, patrolled out to the Culture Camp for a visit with the participants.



**Middle Right:** "Doòli Awards" to a deserving student from the Eliza VanBibber School. The awards are presented to students who demonstrate positive "Doòli Law" traits including Teaching, Sharing, Caring and Respect. The recipient is Tyrin Silas who received his award at the school from Corporal Ken Boone on February 23, 2017

**Bottom Right:** Second recipient of "Doòli Award", was Justin "J.J." Smith. He received his award at the school, from Constable Andrew Imrie on February 28, 2017





## SFN “Knowing Ourselves” Survey

In February and March 2015, many SFN Citizens age 16 and over residing in the Yukon completed a survey of current living conditions called “Knowing Ourselves”. The purpose of the survey was to get a better understanding of current social, economic and cultural conditions of SFN Citizens and also to begin to get a picture of how resource projects are impacting SFN Citizens.

The survey was conducted because the SFN Leadership believed it would provide useful information to Citizens as well as inform the government on priorities for programs and services. It was also conducted as part of the Minto Mine Socio-Economic Monitoring Program which was established to monitor the effects of the mine on SFN Citizens. This is the first time in the Yukon that a survey of this kind has been conducted and it is expected that other communities with resource projects on their land or in their traditional territory may conduct a similar survey.

SFN Citizens can be proud of the completion of the survey. Over 70% of SFN Citizens ages 16 and over across the Yukon completed the survey with 76.6 % of eligible Citizens participating in Pelly Crossing and 60% in Whitehorse and other Yukon communities. This means that the data collected is reliable. Your participation was invaluable and the Leadership again thank each person for taking time to complete the survey.

In future newsletters short articles on topics will be provided. In addition, there will be community meetings starting this Spring to hear more about the results and how the information is being used (such as Housing, Connection to land and water and Community cultural vitality).

A graphic for the 'Knowing Ourselves' survey. It features a background image of a group of people. The title 'Knowing Ourselves' is in large, bold, black letters with a yellow outline. Below it, 'SFN Survey of Living Conditions' is in smaller black letters. A text box explains the survey period and purpose. A yellow box lists prizes: a \$25 gift card, a generator, and return tickets. A 'How to participate' section details the survey process. Three yellow speech bubbles contain survey questions. A black box at the bottom states that responses are confidential and provides contact information for Jean VanBibber.

### Knowing Ourselves

**SFN Survey of Living Conditions**

During February and March 2015, Selkirk First Nation Citizens will be asked some questions about their living conditions. Your answers will help paint a picture of the strengths and weaknesses of our community, and will help us respond to the needs of our people.

**Your voice matters. Have your say and WIN!**

Upon completing the survey, participants will receive a

- **\$25 gift card from Canadian Tire**

and get their name entered in a draw for a chance to win one of two grand prizes:

- **A generator valued at \$1,200**
- **2 return tickets from Whitehorse to Vancouver!**

**How to participate:**

The survey is open to all SFN citizens 16 years and older living in Yukon. All interviews will be conducted between mid February to end of March. Citizens in Pelly and Whitehorse can expect a face-to-face interview and citizens in other Yukon communities a phone interview.

**All responses are confidential and anonymous.**

Overall results of the survey will be presented to Selkirk First Nation Citizens once all the data has been compiled.

For more information about the survey, contact Jean VanBibber at **867.537.3331**

**“How well does the community work together?”**

**“How often do you move?”**

**“How active are you on the land?”**

Selkirk First Nation

**Over 70%**  
of SFN Citizens ages 16+ across  
the Yukon completed the survey

**76.6%** of eligible Citizens  
participated in Pelly Crossing  
&  
**60%** of eligible Citizens in  
Whitehorse and other Yukon  
communities participated



# SELKIRK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## March 2017 Update

*Selkirk Development Corporation was established in 1992. Selkirk Development Corporation is a for-profit business organization of Selkirk First Nation.*

### Mandate

SDC is in the business of seeking and maintaining profitable business ventures to generate wealth on behalf of its shareholder SFN. SDC will work with SFN in a manner that respects the natural environment and cultural and traditional lifestyles of the SFN people.

The Selkirk Group of Companies consists of;

- Selkirk Development Corporation: (Administration/Real Estate)
- 39539 Yukon Incorporated (Minto Mine contracts)
- 15394 Yukon Incorporated (Pelly Wildland Fire Suppression Company)
- SFN Holdings Ltd. (Pelly Operations Company)
- 39550 Yukon Incorporated (Holds the SFN Sewage Lagoon)

Board of Directors: Audrey Baker, Michelle Kolla, Jeremy Harper, Darin Isaac and Candice Menzi

### Pelly Operations

- **Selkirk Center (SFN Holdings Ltd):** The store continues to do well and the SDC administration continues to work closely with the store manager. An agreement has been signed with the new fuel supplier, Petro Canada, and changes are occurring now with fuel delivery, and should be completed by summer 2017. The Selkirk Center will be branded with the Petro Canada logo starting in early May and there will be changes occurring in the store. A new tank will be installed this summer for premium fuel. The existing regular gas/diesel fuel tank will be cleaned this Spring. The Selkirk Center Manager and one staff travelled to Port Moody, BC to the Petro

Canada headquarters for training, and will continue with training of employees during the transition to Petro Canada this summer. In association with Petro Canada we are exploring a number of hot food options, one of which could be a small Tim Horton's operation. Petro Canada also awards 8 bursaries annually for Indigenous students in full-time post secondary education for communities with Petro Canada sites within Canada.

SDC has posted a "Request for Proposals" in Pelly Crossing. The proposal is for paintings of a traditional themed mural on the ends of the new fuel tank that is being installed this Summer. For more information, please contact the CEO at the SDC office. The Selkirk Center is recruiting full and part-time staff for the summer season. Please contact Patty Isaac directly at the store if you are interested in employment at the Selkirk Center.

There have been discussions within Selkirk Development Corporation about building a community laundromat in Pelly Crossing. The options for the laundromat is to expand the current site at the Selkirk Center, or to build on the SDC lot by the highway. These discussions are in the early stages and will continue through the Strategic Planning sessions.

- **X-plex:** Selkirk Development Corporation has had discussions with Selkirk First Nation Council regarding SDC building a housing multiplex in Pelly Crossing. The Board has requested a feasibility study for the X-plex to see if the project is feasible. If the project is feasible and is approved, the X-plex will be a rental unit to house SFN non-citizen staff, Government of Yukon Employees and can also be used for transitional housing for SFN members. SDC heard from the shareholders that due to the housing situation in Pelly Crossing that they require the current housing units in the community for their citizens.
- **Minto Resorts:** The 2017 contract with Holland America is signed. Minto Resorts will continue to cater lunches again this summer to Holland America Bus tours. A manager has been hired and SDC will be posting for kitchen assistants soon. The season begins in mid May and ends in early September. If you are interested in a kitchen assistant position, please submit your resume to



## Other updates

the SDC office. The employees must be willing to live at Minto Resorts during their shift.

- **15394 Yukon Inc.:** (Pelly Fire Company) The preparation has started for this season. We posted an opportunity for crew member training, sponsored by Wildland Fire Management in Whitehorse, in Pelly Crossing in February. The deadline to register was March 3, 2016 and we did not get any interest from Pelly Crossing for this year. The training opportunity does not guarantee a position with the Pelly Fire Company (15394 Yukon Inc) this season as the 3-person crew member positions are filled. The crew leader will be attending training workshops in Whitehorse for senior crew leaders; Incident Leadership and Advised Incident Command System, in early April.

Contract negotiations have started between the First Nation Dev Corps and Government of Yukon as a new contract will be in place this season.

### Mining

- Operations continue at the Minto Mine and our partnerships with various service providers there continue.

### Real Estate

- Our office space at the Calcite Center is now available for lease as Capstone Mining has moved all their staff to the Minto Mine. We are currently seeking estimates to replace carpets and do painting and repairs to the office prior to releasing it. We have also requested quotes to do the basic fit up at our Waterfront Station office, this would include painting walls and ceiling along with the installation of flooring and a basic kitchen area.
- We are working with our partner NVD in offering our current office space plus the additional 2nd floor space that is currently empty beside our office to Goldcorp for their new offices in Whitehorse.
- The Real Estate market for commercial buildings in Whitehorse is starting to look good again. The Yukon economy is based on what is happening in the mining industry in the territory. If the prices of minerals decline, the mining industry is cautious and slows down or shuts down, and so

does the Yukon economy.

### Administration

- The SDC team attended the Cordilleran Round up Mining Conference in Vancouver in January 2017. We met with several companies to discuss possible partnerships on a variety of opportunities. This event has always been a very busy time for Selkirk Development Corporation as an agenda is drafted prior to Roundup with meetings scheduled with companies interested in looking for partnerships and business opportunities. Meetings are also added to the agenda while networking at Round-up. SDC shared a booth again this year with Council of Yukon First Nations and this was very successful with several requests coming forward for meetings with the SDC directors.
- The CEO and directors attended the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference in Whitehorse on February 13 – 15, 2017. This conference was to highlight and promote First Nation Development Corporations and Aboriginal Business sectors of the North.
- The CEO and one director attended the Industry Conference in Whitehorse on February 21 & 22, 2017.
- Selkirk Development Corporation will be updating its Strategic Plan this year. The directors are working with the present Council to start the planning stages. With the SFN election in early April this process will continue with the new Council.
- Selkirk Development Corporation will be hosting a Family Fishing Day this spring, possibly in mid April when the graylings are migrating. We also plan to have a community update meeting, along with a Community BBQ in May.
- The Directors continue to provide updates at quarterly meeting with the Selkirk First Nation Council.

We wish you all a great spring and summer!

Please visit our website at [www.selkirkdevcorp.com](http://www.selkirkdevcorp.com).

We are located at: #201- 166 Titanium Way,  
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 0G1,  
Phone: (867)393-2181, or Fax: (867)393-2182.

# Hunting with the late Gary Sam

By David Johnny

**Hunting** When I was 21 years old, I worked as a guide for an outfitter up the Stewart River. It was my fourth year of guiding, having started with Louis Brown when I was 18. The year was 1968.

I early July, it was time to trail out the horses for the start of the hunting season in August. Gary Sam, Stanley Simon, Alec Johnny and I were guides and we trailed about 16 horses out the road from Mayo to Mayo Lake with the outfitter, one dog, and with some help from his girlfriend and her daughter as far as the lake.

We were headed for our hunting area long the upper Stewart River east of Mount Ortell, a distance of over 160km. Once we left Mayo Lake, there were no clear trails. We navigated by landmarks and followed more open areas and game trails through the trees where the traveling was best. As we traveled along, we'd always look back along the trail so that we'd remember how it looked when it came time for the return trip. The weather was good and we ran into no rain on the trail in.

The first stage of the trip from Mayo Lake to Lansing took us 3-4 days. We followed along the north shore of the Mayo Lake, up Keystone Creek and Pass, and then east along the Granite and Roop creeks to Tiny Island Lake. The only trouble we had along the way was that one of the horses got stuck in the mud in a small lake near where we were camped. We had to pull it out with another horse. Our dog, a German Shepherd also developed cut-up paws and had difficulty walking. So we cut a hole in one of the horse's pack panels and loaded the dog aboard for the trip. Travel along the north shore of Tiny Island Lake was rather precarious because of the lake's steep drop-off. From there, the terrain flattened out more and we continued east to Penape Lake, where



we spent the night and then onto Lansing.

We rode the horses across the wide Stewart River just upriver of Lansing. This was a safe place to cross but the water was still deep enough that the horses were swimming in places and their hooves bounced along the river bottom at other spots. We stayed at Lansing Post among the old trapping cabins for an extra day to dry out the horse blankets.

The last leg of the trip, from Lansing to our hunting camp, took us 3 days. We followed along the north bank of the Lansing River all the way up to its headwaters in the Teslin Range. We set up our hunting camp at a small lake east of the Teslin Range and Mount Ortell.

Starting at the beginning of August, we spent the next 6 weeks guiding hunts around the area. A cook was flown in and the hunters would fly-in, 2 to 4 at a time, for 2 week hunts. We hunted sheep in the Teslin Range and moose in the valleys and we moved back and forth between our camps on the lake to one on the upper Stewart River. During the hunting season we'd also see a few caribou



in the mountains as we hunted. One day that I remember well was when, while hunting along the Stewart River, Gary suddenly jumped off his horse and ran into the bush leaving us wondering what the heck he was doing. Soon came the cry of "I got it!". Gary emerged triumphantly holding a goose. We all ate well that night!

The hunting season ended on the middle of September. The outfitter and cook flew out, leaving us 4 guides to trail out the horses. We packed up and trailed down the north bank of the Lansing River towards Lansing Post. Two of the horses carried our food and personal gear. Along the way, several of the horses got lost and Stanley and Alec had to go back along the trail to find them. We never did find one of them. We got to Lansing Post and stayed there for several nights, probably too long. We started getting short on food, so we found some old traps and set them for beaver. We caught one and ate it the very first night.

We left Lansing Post and crossed over the Stewart River. From there we intended to retrace our steps from July and head to Penape Lake and then onto Tiny Island and Mayo Lakes. However, we somehow got turned around before we reached Penape Lake and travelled too far north. We camped for the night and I woke up with a wet back in the morning having unintentionally slept in a small hollow. Alec climbed a tree to see if he could spot Penape Lake but he couldn't see anything. Based on what he saw, he thought we should keep heading north but I didn't think this was right and eventually we found Penape Lake and spent the night there.

The next day, we continued on towards Tiny Island Lake but the going wasn't easy. The horses, Alberta bred and not used to the Yukon bush life, were weak and we started losing them. We also didn't have enough food with us and our supplies of flour, sugar and tea ran out after Tiny Island Lake. By the time we got to the Roop Lakes just east of Mayo Lake, we started running

into snow and as we got into the mountains, it was knee deep. We traveled on the frozen Roop Lakes to find easier walking but by then we were down to only two horses with us, both Yukon horses.

Travel through the mountains north of Mayo Lake, the final leg of our trip was very tough. The snow was deep, we had nothing to eat and we only had rain gear and shoe packs rather than proper winter gear. We dug out snow with a frying pan to make our camp, doubled up sleeping to keep warm and had to put on frozen boots in the morning. In the daytime, we just kept walking to try to get through it. At one point, Gary told everyone that if he fell over, he just wanted them to shoot him.

We made it through though. By the time we started hiking down Keystone Creek, the snow had disappeared. We ate cranberries and I shot the head off a spruce grouse with my 30-30. We boiled the grouse in our teapot and ate it and drank the broth. It had been 2 days since we'd eaten, so our stomachs hurt with the new food. We got to the west end of Mayo Lake and even though there were 5-6 bags of oats that had been left there, the horses decided they'd had enough and headed on down the road towards Mayo.

We walked down to a cabin where we met Cliff from Stewart Crossing. The outfitter then came by and was full of smiles to see us safe. He had thought that we must have gotten lost further to the north and they had been looking for us with an helicopter from Elsa. Alec and I went back to pack everything up and we went back to Mayo for a big dinner at the Silver Inn. We got paid the next day and that was the end of a very memorable hunting season.

**Note:** *This story is written in memory of David Johnny's hunting companion Gary Sam from Carmacks who passed way. May he rest in peace. Some names were changed or omitted from the story.*

### Start Program Update

This program is designed as a land-based/academic course to transition students into apprenticeship programming. Focusing on Math and Science prerequisites, we have four students in the program. Connecting to the land and learning from the Elders is an important part of programming at the campus and we hope to use the START program as a learning opportunity for making future programs even better.

### Northern Tutchone Ways Of Teaching, Learning And Knowing

The campus is looking for guidance about programming at the campus and ensuring that we respect and acknowledge Northern Tutchone learning, teaching and ways of knowing. Please look for posters regarding this effort in the upcoming months.

### Upcoming Programs

We are just in the middle of campus planning. It is still in the planning stages, if you have recommendations about potential future programming please come add it to the list!

### Top Three Suggestions 2017/2018

- Summer 2017 - Food Security Program (the fifth year running!)
- Summer/Fall 2017 - Northern Tutchone Language Revitalisation
- Spring 2018 - Small House Wellness Program

### Ready For The Summer Work Season?!

Starting in April we will be offering the following courses:

- FOODSAFE I & II
- Standard First Aid
- Boat Operator
- Fall Protection
- WHMIS + TDG Class III
- Air Brakes
- Traffic Control
- Enform Chainsaw Training
- Basic Home Plumbing
- Basic Home Wiring
- Small Engine Repair
- Excel/Word Computer Training

If you are interested in any of these courses please swing by the college to add your name to the list.



## Announcements

### Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate our son Isaiah and his entire "Canada Flooring" team on winning 1st place in the Northwest end of year soccer Championships that took place on March 10-12, 2017 in Whitehorse. Way to go to Isaiah and team! Love, Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa and the rest of your family!



Congratulations to **Candice Menzi** and **David Silas** on their wedding



### N-huudlin Dzenú Sóthän Happy Birthday!

Wishing our daughter, sister and Auntie **JESSICA** a Big Happy Birthday!! Love your family who love you very much!

### Opening Soon...

The Big Jonathan Heritage Center will be open **May 29th, 2017.**

### Calling all Artists!

The Selkirk Spirit Dancers Society is looking for an artist to make a logo for the Dance group. Deadline for submission is May 24th, 2017. Winner and Cash Prize will be announced at the Annual May Gathering.

**WE WANT  
YOU...**

**...TO BE  
INFORMED!**

Please update your mailing and contact information!

Please contact Enrollment Officer  
Jerry Alfred to update your address and  
phone number.

Email: [alfredjerry@selkirkfn.com](mailto:alfredjerry@selkirkfn.com)  
Phone: (867) 537-3331, ext. 211  
Mail: Box 40, Pelly Crossing, YT Y0B 1P0



# Spring 2017

SFN News • Volume 13 • Issue 1

[www.selkirkfn.com](http://www.selkirkfn.com)



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## Communications Office

### Selkirk First Nation

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