



Tahltan Band Council

Dah Ki Me - "Our House"

December 2013

Busy November

November proved a busy month, with meetings about several important issues.

Community meetings about the Klappan Strategic Initiative took place. There was also a Leadership Forum meeting on health and social issues where the main topic of discussion was the idea of the Stikine Health Centre being jointly managed with Northern Health.

Also, in late November planner Patrick Lucas from David Narine & Associates visited to discuss tourism in our territory with Tahltan Band Council, youth and tourism providers.

Wood For Our Homes

I would like to send out a Medu to Arnold Callbreath and his partners at Brinkman Forests for delivering wood to the communities again this year.

The wood has been cut, delivered and our homes are now warm for another winter.



Message from Chief Rick McLean

With another winter upon us, another busy work period has come to an end.

Tahltan Band members have been busy throughout our territory on jobs. With so much employment, it's great to hear positive feedback about our work from the contractors and proponents. I am proud to be part of a group with such a great work ethic.

After such a special year, I wanted to take this opportunity to update everyone on some of this year's events.

The Tahltan Band office closes for the holidays on December 20th and will reopen on January 6th.

On behalf of all of the council and staff at the Band office, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Medu,

Chief –Dun'na eh (Rick McLean)

In This Issue:

Annual Bike Ride

Stikine Wholistic
Working Group

Welcome Home Event

Fish Season

Annual Bike Ride



Our annual bike ride to raise money to help local people with unexpected medical costs took place in the last week of July.

A special Medu to Mr Chen, who donated \$50,000 to the ride as well as donating a loader to the Tahltan Band. This was his commitment to show how much he respects the Tahltan and wishes to be a good community partner and show all mining companies how important it is to be a part of a community not apart from it.



Stikine Wholistic Working Group

The Stikine Wholistic Working Group (SWWG) is a partnership between the Tahltan, Kaska, Tlingit and the provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

The group met in Vancouver in early December to discuss on-going funding for this incredibly successful initiative – the number of children in care in our region has dropped over 50% since it started in 2008.

Many projects funded are related to culture and family values like fish camps, berry camps, language, regalia making, song and dance and healing ceremonies.

The funding has given us the opportunity to take back our responsibility of raising our children and families in a culturally appropriate way instilling pride and dignity in who we are.

Unfortunately, a report by MCFD critic Mary Ellen Chapel Lafonde claimed that funding given to First Nations through the indigenous approaches is wasted.

As a result, we have to provide further evidence that the SWWG is working to convince the province to continue the funding. There will be a meeting with the ministers in early February to see if we will be funded in 2014.

Welcome Home Event



In the last week of July a Welcome Home ceremony took place in Telegraph Creek for residential school survivors, a necessary step in the healing process. More than 500 people attended the four-day event.

Many thanks to Jeannie Dendeze and her crew on organizing and planning the event.

Fish Season

It was nice to see so many people back for fish season and to see so many people recording their catch as the numbers we harvest are up, and that shows we care about our fish.

That being said the King numbers are down and we had to restrict non-Tahltans from sport fishing at Tahltan. The Tahltan Band has initiated a scientific review of the Little Tahltan King/Chinook returns as there is a real need to prove to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and to the Alaskans that we need to take action to protect that run.

