



Tahltan Band Council

Dah Ki Me - "Our House"

May 2014

Message from Chief Rick McLean

Energy Audit

The Tahltan community energy audit has been completed. The audit and resulting energy plan will be used to apply for funds to upgrade community buildings and houses to decrease energy consumption.

Stikine Wholistic Working Group (SWWG)

Tahltan/Kaska/Tlingit Partnership

Funding was cut in December from the Ministry of Child and Families (MCFD), but due to the group's success we have secured another year's funding through the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR). There will be a need for ongoing work in order to create and secure a long-term funding approach for the group.

Fisheries

Due to estimated low returns this year, the Tahltan Band Council will not be leasing out the seven lower river commercial licences owned by the Band this year. Also, the non-Tahltan sport fishery at Tahltan Reserve #1 will not be allowed this season due to the low number of returning Kings. A scientific review has been started for the Little Tahltan King return.

Taht'lah Reserve

Taht'lah, the new reserve in Dease Lake, is in the planning process. Funding has been applied for through Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to continue its planning and design. There will be community meetings once funding has been secured.

Red Chris IBA

As part of the Tahltan Negotiation Team (TNT), I have been part of the negotiations over the past year to ensure we receive benefits from this project. We recently finished a round of community meetings presenting proposed terms. I am pleased with the positive feedback from our members who attended the meetings and support the terms presented.

IR #9 Float Plane Base

Due to member concerns over the floatplane base located at the bottom of IR #9, we have not renewed the rental agreement with Oostsa Air and they will be moving their operations across the lake. The dock will remain for our use.

AltaGas

AltaGas celebrated its 20th anniversary and they covered the cost for me to attend the event in Calgary. Owner David Cornhill paid special attention to the Tahltan in his speech, saying that without our vision and dedication, the Northwest Project would not have happened. Also, on May 6 the McLymont Creek and Volcano Creek water licence revenue-sharing agreement was signed by Tahltan leadership and by the Province.

We are lucky to have many tremendous people in our Nation and communities who are working hard to create positive change. I am grateful for their contributions and feel very confident that we are making progress in our goal to create healthy and wealthy communities -- physically, mentally and spiritually as well as wealthy in resource, culture and tradition.

Soga ah dent

Chief Dun'na eh (Rick McLean)



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Elections Information

Nominations for the upcoming Tahltan Band Council took place on May 13, 2014.

The election will take place on June 27, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Barb McCutcheon is the Electoral Officer.

There are two polling stations:

- Community Hall (Telegraph Creek)
- Tahltan Central Council Office (Dease Lake)

The ballots will be counted as soon as the polls close and results will be posted.

Mail-in ballots are available upon request. If you would like to receive a mail-in ballot, please contact Barb at (250) 235-3055 or email: barb.mccutcheon@gmail.com.

Mail-in ballots are to be sent to Barb McCutcheon.

Nominations

The nominations are as follows:

Chief Candidates:

- Christine Ball
- Terri Brown
- Arnold Callbreath
- Clayton McGhee
- Rick McLean
- Yvonne Tashoots

Council Candidates:

- Lorgan Bob
- Bradley Creyke
- Dwayne Day
- Gayleen Day
- Jeanie Dendys
- Shanna Day-Dennis
- Richard (Rocky) Jackson
- Lee Marion
- Carmen McPhee
- Geraldine Quock
- Gilbert Tashoots, Sr.

Tahltan Teen Spirit a Source of Pride

It is with great pride that we announce that three Tahltan teens – Jaylene Soegard, Taylor Viik and Lilia Martinez -- will be participating in the 2014 North American Indigenous Games, held from July 20 to 27 in Regina, SK.

Jaylene Soegard, 17, will be representing the Tahltan Nation on the U19 (under 19) Girls' Basketball team. Jaylene is an accomplished athlete. She currently plays on basketball, baseball, volleyball, lacrosse and rugby teams in her hometown of Abbotsford, BC. It is her first time participating in the games, and her parents are proud of her.

Their pride extends beyond their daughter's athletic accomplishments. Val Soegard, Jaylene's mother, recently spoke to Chief McLean and learned that the Chief has asked Tahltan Elder Alice Hamlin to make Jaylene a ceremonial cape to wear at the games.

To Val, the cape is "most appreciated and an honour for her to have, and for her to represent her Tahltan family." Jaylene has only been to Telegraph Creek once –for the funeral of her late grandmother Pearl Turner (nee: Inkster, Crow Clan) and only received her Status last year, so Val was especially moved at the support shown for her daughter from her Tahltan family. "That's what I wanted for her... the cape is a real gift and is representative of the support shown by our Tahltan Band for all our young people."

The second young athlete representing our Tahltan people is Taylor Viik. Taylor is the great-granddaughter of Eva Callbreath, and will be representing the Tahltan Nation on the U16 (under 16) BC Girls' Volleyball Team. She is a keen athlete who has been involved in volleyball for several years, and was the Grade 9 recipient of the all-around athlete award for her school last year. Taylor not only demonstrates ability on the court but in the classroom as well. She attributes her success and versatility to her work ethic: "I put 100% into everything I do." Last year her achievements also included making the principal's list for academic performance.

The third young Tahltan athlete is Lilia Martinez, 15, granddaughter of Minnie Dennis. Lilia will be representing the Tahltan Nation on the U15 BC Girls' soccer team. After competing in the 2013 BC Aboriginal Provincial Soccer Championships with the Interior Region team, she was selected by the champion Fraser River Region team as one of their all-star pick-ups. While at the games, Lilia will proudly wear both the Tahltan sweater handed down to her by her late grandmother and a ceremonial cape given to her by the Tahltan Band.

These young women will be making the journey to Regina to participate in the games this July. The week-long games are designed to "showcase unity, sport, culture, youth, volunteerism and team work between First Nations, Métis and Non-Indigenous communities."

For more information about this event, please visit: www.regina2014naig.com.

Fifth Annual Chief's Ride for Charity



On June 20, 2014, riders will set out on the fifth annual Chief's Ride through Tahltan territory. Chief Rick McLean started this charity bike ride in 2010 to:

- raise money for the community's Special Request Fund;
- promote healthy active lifestyles; and
- promote mountain biking and tourism in our territory.

Last year's ride was the most successful to date, with 17 riders participating and raising just over \$80, 000 for the community. Every year, the ride has raised tens of thousands of dollars for Tahltan families with sudden medical travel costs.

Participants in the day-long ride cover a 115-km stretch from Dease Lake to Telegraph Creek. The scenic route showcases the beautiful Tanzilla, Tuya, Tahltan and Stikine river valleys. Riders will also enjoy lunch en route, a cultural stop, and a post-ride community BBQ and get-together.

This year, for the first time, the ride will be part of a larger Bike Week in Telegraph Creek with the support of our school and the successful Sprockids youth cycling program. It is also a chance to show off our new bike park and our area's amazing back-country trails.

If you or someone you know would like to participate in the ride, bring a mountain bike with front and back disc brakes, and join us for the fun!

If you would like to be a sponsor, companies who donate funds will be recognized on our banners and communications.

Donations can be sent to:
Tahltan Band Council

PO Box 46
Telegraph Creek, BC V0J 2W0

Please reference: "bike ride" or "special request fund"

Hydroelectric Revenue Sharing Agreements Signed



Two clean energy agreements with the Province of British Columbia will enable the Tahltan Nation to share revenue from run-of-river projects slated for the northwest — the McLymont Creek hydroelectric project and the Volcano Creek hydroelectric project. Revenue from these clean energy projects will be reinvested back into the community, as part of the Tahltan Nation's ongoing economic development initiatives.

Signed on May 6, 2014, these agreements build on the foundational 2011 Northwest Transmission Line (NTL) Negotiation Framework Agreement, which opened the region and Tahltan traditional territory to increased economic development through electrification – and other agreements, including a shared decision-making agreement reached between the Province and the Tahltan Nation in 2013.

Both revenue-sharing agreements are the result of the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund, which promotes First Nations participation in the clean energy sector. These types of agreements are mutually beneficial, allowing the Tahltan Nation to direct funds from their water and land rent revenues into community programming and infrastructure improvements, while also assisting BC in meeting its clean energy needs.

"The Tahltan Nation is committed to resource development such as these clean energy projects, which respect the environment and Tahltan rights while providing tangible benefits to our communities," said TCC President Annita McPhee. "These agreements show that we can work together with government when we are fully involved and have a strong role in the process."

These types of resource projects create opportunities for us to improve every aspect of our communities: employment, healthcare, language, culture, and community infrastructure. However, we want to minimize any potential negative impacts on our Tahltan way of life. To steer the Tahltan Nation through these challenges, a high-level body called the Tahltan Socio-Cultural Working Group (TSCWG) was created to address social and cultural challenges that can accompany economic development in remote communities.

On May 6, 2014, the Province of BC announced its investment of \$555,000 to support the operation and activities of this award-winning government-to-government forum that focuses on enhancing our people's economic, social and physical well-being while enhancing our nation's cultural roots.

For more information regarding the revenue sharing agreements or the TSCWG, please visit the Tahltan Central Council's website at www.tahltan.org.



Photos courtesy of the Province of BC

Progress for Tahltan Housing

Tahltan Housing has been busy with important maintenance on our housing.

Work to remove snow, clean chimneys and inspect and repair furnaces has all been completed. Some renovations have been completed by Tuya Contracting from Whitehorse, Yukon. Two duplex renovations in Telegraph Creek have now been finished.

During May the renovation of the Tahltan Centre was started. This included new flooring, paint and windows. Work to install a new cooler and compressor system is also underway.

By early June, the renovation of the Tahltan Riversong is also due for completion. This vital work includes a new roof, ceiling, showers stalls, kitchen equipment and plumbing, as well as floor repairs.

Also, the six-plex Elders' Complex in Telegraph Creek is scheduled to receive new paint and new shower/bath options for the Elders.

Congratulations to Daniel Edzerza, the new home buyer of House #10 located on IR #9 at Dease Lake, BC — Chief and Council have accepted Daniel's offer to purchase the house.

For more information, contact the Tahltan Band Housing Manager:

Thelma Asp

E: thelma.asp@tahltan.ca

P: (250) 771-5577

Tahltan Band Enters Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management



On March 3, 2014, the Tahltan and 18 other First Nations entered into a Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management (FNLM).

The FNLM regime enables First Nations with an opportunity to better manage reserve lands, natural resources and environment according to our own land code, laws and policies, free of the restrictions of the Indian Act.

In 1996, Canada signed the initial Framework Agreement with 14 First Nations. The Framework Agreement was ratified in 1999, and First Nations that join it are opting out of the 34 land-related sections of the Indian Act.

Altogether, there are 28 new First Nations entering into the FNLM regime in 2014. Of these communities, 13 are located in British Columbia, indicating that BC continues to lead the country in embracing the potential under FNLM.

The next steps will be engaging membership on the development of a land code and concluding an Individual Agreement with Canada. This will take place over a two-year, community-driven process with plenty of opportunity for community members to get involved and be informed about the Tahltan Land Code and Individual Agreement.

Community members must approve the land code and Individual Agreement through a ratification vote. The Individual Agreement sets out the Reserve lands to be transferred and the operational funding to be provided by Canada for land management.

A study conducted in 2009 looked at 17 of the communities who had already signed on to the FNLM framework agreements. The benefits ranged from investment growth and opportunities to employment opportunities for members and non-members alike. This included \$53 million in investment from member-owned businesses, \$100 million in investment from third-party businesses, more than 2,000 employment opportunities for band members, and more than 10,000 employment opportunities for non-members — pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into local economies.

Along with this economic growth, the agreement is real recognition of First Nations' inherent right to be self-governing, make decisions over our land bases, and have more control over our economic development and growth.

Applying for Status Cards

To apply for a new Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) card, go to www.aandc-aadnc.gc.ca and visit the “Indian Status” section. Click on “SCIS,” then on “Forms: SCIS forms.”

Adults (16+) require a guarantor form and an adult application form, as well as one or two pieces of secondary ID, two 50 mm x 70 mm passport photos, stamped and dated by a professional photographer, and any name-linking documents (marriage certificates, legal name changes), if applicable. Note: the guarantor’s form is acceptable as one piece of ID. To determine who is a suitable guarantor, please download the guarantor’s form from the AANDC website.

Children (0-15) require a guarantor form, child form, their original birth certificate (long form), and one to two pieces of ID (see below for suitable types of ID), as well as two 50x70 mm passport photos, stamped and dated by a professional photographer. The photographs submitted must be two identical passport photos, dated within one year of the application date. This is the photograph that will appear on your SCIS card.

To activate a new SCIS card, please call 1-888-425-4338.

You can renew your expired Status card at your local Band office. To do so, you need to bring one piece of current photo ID and two pieces of secondary ID.

Acceptable forms of ID

The following types of ID are acceptable if current (not expired) and showing no more than normal wear and tear (must be able to read easily):

- Birth Certificate (long form for children); Care Card (Provincial health card); Driver’s Licence; Provincial ID; Employee ID with digitized photo; Student ID with digitized photo; Marriage or divorce certificate; Legal change of name certificate; Firearms Licence.

The following types of ID are the ONLY types of ID that are acceptable if expired by six months or less:

- Certificate of Indian Status (CIS); Pilot Project Certificate of Indian Status (Treaty 7).

A note on expired Status cards:

ALL expired Status cards must be submitted along with your application to renew or replace your Status card, regardless of whether they are expired for more or less than six months. Otherwise a lost/stolen Status card declaration form must be completed.

*Absolutely NO SIN cards or photocopied identification will be accepted.

Bill C-3 Mclvor (Gender Equity) Package

If you are applying for your SCIS card under Bill C-3, please use the Bill C-3 Mclvor (Gender Equity) Package. The package includes:

- Bill C-3 Equity Brochure
- 2011 Indian Act Amendments – Gender Equity in Indian Act Registration Act, Application for Registration AND Application for Secure Certificate of Indian Status (Forms 83-114E)
- Registration and Secure Certificate of Indian Status Guarantor Declaration (Form 83-120E)

* If you need help while completing the Bill C-3 Application, or if you have questions or concerns, please contact the Bill C-3 Enquiries Line directly at 1-800-567-9604 or email infopubs@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca.

If you are applying for SCIS under Bill C-3 and have a question about acceptable forms of ID, please call the SCIS processing number at 1-877-710-2908 or email scci-scis@ainc-inac.gc.ca.

Note: Tahltan Band Indian Registry Administrator Isabel Reid will be away from the office on vacation from July 21 to August 5, 2014.

'Callison Still Guiding the Way'



Dempsey Callison was recently honoured by the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia. Photo courtesy of tonybynum.com

At a ceremony held in Kelowna on March 29, the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia presented their prestigious Leland Award to Smithers resident, Dempsey Callison. This honour recognizes professionalism in the ranks of big game hunting guides in British Columbia, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. It was established in 2000, in memory of Leland Bradford, a talented assistant guide who died in 1998, at the age of 22.

Dempsey was born far from any roads, near the historical Tahltan village at Shesley, B.C. Fred Callison brought his wife in from Lost Lake by dog team, to be attended to by midwives Nedt cha deech, Eva Dunson, and Rosie Taku (Dennis). When complications set in, Fred climbed a telegraph pole to summon the local doctor for help. On a cold January in 1938, Dan McPhee drove his dog team 43 miles in -40 C weather, to carry Dr. Patchett out from Telegraph Creek. The doctor predicted that the baby would grow to be a powerful man, and urged Fred to name his boy after the World Heavyweight Champion boxer, Jack Dempsey. And so it came to be that Fred and his wife Ethel (nee Quock) named their son Dempsey Patchett Callison.

The family returned to their homestead, but every summer they travelled 80 miles by pack train into Telegraph Creek, where Fred loaded up with supplies to deliver to the telegraph line operators at Shesley and Nahlin.

One of Dempsey's earliest memories is of riding into town inside pannier boxes carried by a mule, with him on one side and his baby sister, Lee, on the other. It didn't take long before horses and hunting became as much a part of the boy as flowers are to fireweed. By the time he was 10 years old, Dempsey was riding lead for the pack train. His family left the area at the end of the '40s, and some of the ladies in Telegraph Creek still giggle in remembrance of the day when the 16-year-old cowboy rode back into town. Dempsey's handsome looks, coupled with his kind and gentle demeanor, were the talk of the village!

By 1950, Fred and Ethel had separated and Dempsey moved with his father to the north end of Atlin Lake. They began raising horses and were soon managing a herd of 76 head. Dempsey, then a young man, caught the eye of George Edzerza, who mentored the eager cowboy, and offered him his first guiding job—hunting saddle-back rams, moose, mountain goat, caribou and bear.

At the age of 31, Dempsey was allotted the Liard Plateau, one of the last available hunting areas in northern British Columbia and hence earned the title of Big Game Hunting Outfitter. Years later, he purchased a 6,000 square-mile hunting area, located within his native Tahltan lands. He moved to Dease Lake and operated Golden Bear Outfitting until retiring in 2007. Dempsey is now settled in Smithers, where he often breaks out the horse trailer to load up and explore new trails.

Last year, at 75 years of age, Dempsey headed back into the wilderness he loves so dearly. He guided two sheep hunters and also hunted for moose, caribou and goat. Every hunter was successful.

George Bernard Shaw wrote, "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." At 76, Dempsey is planning to guide again this fall. If it's true that things get better with age, he must be approaching magnificent!

NB: Dempsey would like to extend his appreciation to Mike and Carol Danielson of Little Dease Ventures for making this opportunity possible, to Jim Peterson and Carmen Nyuli of Tahltan Outfitters for their support, to the hunters who created his nomination, and to the Board and members of GOABC for their consideration. He wishes to thank Tony Bynum for the wonderful photograph, Sitka for their gift of hunting apparel, and Rick Taylor for the outstanding bronze sculpture.

He sends his love to his delightful daughters, Cynthia, Camille, and Candis. In particular, Dempsey thanks the Bradford family, for this wonderful tribute to their son, Leland, whom Dempsey knew and respected as a skilled and honourable outdoorsman.

By Jan Anderson. Reprinted with permission from *The Interior News*