



**Tahltan**  
Band Council

**2018**  
**Summer**  
**Newsletter**



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## Chief's Update

First off, an apology for the lack of newsletters over the last two years. The newsletter is an important communication tool that we will commit to doing a better job of.

As the spokesperson for the Tahltan Band, I am happy to say that we have many things to be proud of and many projects underway to build our communities of Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake. The Program Manager's reports that will follow in the newsletter will outline some of the key projects and initiatives that are happening in our communities.

My role as Chief requires me to work in a variety of areas. Much of my time is spent attending out-of-town meetings with entities such as Indian Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), our Program Managers and band manager as well as governance meetings with the Iskut Band and the Tahltan Central Government (TCG). I also sit on the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Champions Table. The Champions Table is where B.C. business leaders and First Nation Leaders come together to explore opportunities and reduce barriers for economic development.

Tahltan Band is also a part of the Stikine Wholistic Working Group (SWWG) and 3Nations (3N) partnership which includes the communities of the Tahltan, Kaska and Tlingit Nations. The mandate of SWWG and 3N is for the Nations to work together on common issues that we face such as child and family welfare, education (School District 87), wildlife and health. A lot of our work is about creating a true north region and creating the 3N Society to be the official entity to govern the 3N partnership. I represent our Band at the SWWG and 3N tables.

Separately from 3N, we also have a government to government agreement with the Province of British Columbia. This agreement focuses on assisting with community development and Nation building, wildlife and reconciliation. We meet quarterly to discuss issues in these areas and identify solutions or initiatives that Tahltan Band can implement to address issues.

Business wise, Tahltan Nation Development Corporation (TNDC) and our newly formed Tahltan Band Development Corporation (TBDC) are moving forward. We are a shareholder of TNDC and appoint the Board of Directors for the company. While we don't have any say in the day-to-day operations of the company, the Board does meet twice a year with leadership to discuss the progress of the company. TBDC is the business that will be moving our store, Tahltan Centre, and the Riversong Café and Lodge forward. TBDC is very new so we are still looking for board members!

Another focus for Tahltan Band moving forward will be to develop a plan for the own source revenues (OSR) the Band received. None of this money has been spent yet as an update to our Official Community Plan (OCP) will be required before we can determine the best use for these monies. By updating our OCP before we allocated any monies, the community will have a say in where the OSR is spent.



At the community level, I also try to attend as many weddings, anniversaries, graduations, potlatches, ceremonies and funerals as possible. Of late we have been saying our final good byes to many of our people which is tough on everybody. These goodbyes highlight the importance of the work we do and the work that still needs to be done in all aspects of the Tahltan Band development, our communities development and Nations development. Positive change takes time and commitment.

### ***Medu***

Chief Dunna'eh

**Rick McLean**





## Youth Council Update

Hello, my name is Brian Quock Jr. I am from the Wolf Clan of the Tahltan Band. I currently live in Iskut, B.C. with my wife and 2 children.

I was appointed to the Youth Council Mentorship role with Tahltan Band and worked with Chief Rick McLean, Band Councilors and Freddie Louie, the Tahltan Band Economic Development Manager. As part of the Mentorship role, I attended Chief and Council meetings throughout the last year. I have gained confidence as a leader and a greater understanding for the governance processes, businesses and budgeting required within our Band.

From my time in the Youth Council Mentorship role, I have learned the importance of attending every meeting while on Band Council, staying engaged with note taking at each meeting and being up-to-date with the information provided prior to the meetings. This opportunity has given me insight into what to expect in the future when I hope to be involved with the Tahltan Band Elected Council in a Councilor position.

In September 2017, I attended the B.C. Cabinet and First Nation Leadership Gathering in Vancouver, B.C., with Tahltan Band Chief and Council, Tahltan Central Government, and Iskut Band Chief and Council. It was a great opportunity to meet the Premier and Ministers. I listened carefully as our leaders interacted on a government to government level and shared knowledge of our Nation with these elected officials. The future of our Nation is so bright.



## Economic Development

The 2017/2018 fiscal year has been a busy one for the Tahltan Economic Development department. In addition to the major projects that have been completed throughout the year, we have been hard at work writing funding proposals and working to get TBC off of the Department of Indian Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Capital Freeze List. We are now off the list and can again receive INAC funding. The first two capital projects TBC will target are a \$217,000 water system assessment on IR 6, 6A and 12 (Telegraph Creek) to determine whether the system needs to be upgraded or replaced, and, a \$300,000 final design project of IR 13 (Parcel A) in Dease Lake.

Major projects completed throughout the 2017/2018 fiscal year included:

- Establishment of the Tahltan Band Development Corporation
- Business analysis of the Tahltan Centre Store and the creation of a business plan for the store
- Feasibility study for a small gas bar/cardlock in Dease Lake
- Funding secured for 10 housing renovations with construction to start in the summer of 2018
- Purchase of a vacuum truck

We have many ongoing projects which will carry over to the 2018/2019 fiscal year including:

- Cardlock fuel distribution in Dease Lake
- Riversong marketing strategy
- Tahltan Centre management training
- Feasibility study of Super A store
- Green energy project research
- Research feasibility of commercial greenhouse for Telegraph Creek

The Tahltan Band Economic Development department looks forward to moving our ongoing projects through to completion and sourcing new economic development opportunities for our Band in 2018/2019!

### Feddie Louie

Economic Development Manager  
[ec.dev@tahltn.ca](mailto:ec.dev@tahltn.ca)



## Stikine Riversong Lodge & Cafe

The 2017 spring/summer was a wonderful season for our Stikine Riversong Lodge and Cafe. We employed 6 full-time Tahltan staff and one part-time non-Tahltan staff for the season. The skills and training opportunities that Riversong provides for our youth is essential to prepare them for jobs outside our Territory. This past season, our Tahltan staff did not have previous job experience so we were honoured to mentor them and provide job experience. It makes my job as a Manager very rewarding and hopefully they will carry the experience with them throughout their lives.

Riversong will open for the 2018 season on May 25th and we are excited to see all the regulars and meet new visitors. Being Tahltan owned and operated, we appreciate the continued support and constructive feedback from our Nation and Tahltan members. We are very proud of our Nation and our culture and are eager to share our knowledge with interested visitors from all over the world!

See you all this summer,

**Fannie Vance**

Manager, Stikine Riversong Lodge & Cafe

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## Tahltan Fisheries Program

Tahltan Fisheries is excited to begin another fishing season, continuing our work along side Fisheries and Oceans Canada in all the Stock Assessment and monitoring work being done in our Territory. The biggest concern for the 2018 season is the extremely low numbers of Chinook Salmon returning to the Stikine Watershed. These low numbers have put us in a position where we are asking all members to not set their nets until the sockeye start running to aide conservation efforts. We have also closed the Tahltan River from the confluence of the Stikine River up. This is forecasted to be one of, if not, the lowest returns on record.

Kerry Carlick is returning as the Tahltan Band's Fisheries Manager this year, this is his second year as the Program Manager. Kerry took part as an advisor to Iskut Band's Fisheries Program Manager Cheri Frocklage and Transboundary Panel Member in The Pacific Salmon Treaty process, and the First Nation Caucus meetings. Kerry also took part in the Transboundary Technical Committee meetings. He also has been apart of the Fish and Wildlife working group, and The Iskut Steelhead Committee.

This year the projects will consist of:

1. The Upper Stikine Stock Separation - This project samples a portion of fish caught in the Food, Social, and Ceremonial Fishery (FSC). The purpose is to determine the ratio of enhanced to wild, also determining the stocks origin (Tuya, Tahltan, and Mainstem). The technicians will be Raina Feldman and Fabian Vance.
2. The Upper Stikine Catch Monitoring - This project collects the catch numbers from all the members who participate in the FSC Fishery, the program also hands out fishing and transport permits. Long time staff member Noreen Vance will be returning as the Catch Monitor.
3. Fisheries Guardian/Creel Survey - Margaret Asp will be returning as the Tahltan Fisheries Guardian at Tahltan. Her job is to engage with the public about fisheries issues, collect rod fishing data, hand out transport/fishing permits, and to monitor and report any fishing violations.

4. Tahltan Slide Monitoring - This project will see to staff members (to be determined) observe and monitor the effectiveness of salmon passage past the slide that occurred in 2014. This year will be vital, as considerable efforts went on during the winter months to improve fish passage. This was done through blasting of rock by a contractor to increase the channel width considerably.

Some new initiatives that Tahltan Fisheries is going to take part in are:

1. The Snapper Creek Fish and Fish Habitat Offsetting Plan - This project will involve working alongside The Red Chris Environmental Team in their efforts to monitor the effectiveness or success of the habitat offsets that were done on the creek that flows into Kinaskan Lake just south of Iskut.
2. The B.C., Alaska Transboundary Rivers Monitoring Project - This project will be a collaborative project with the Province of B.C., Tahltan Central Government and Tahltan Fisheries, it will involve the sampling of water, and benthic fish tissue sampling on the Stikine and Iskut Rivers.
3. The Return of the Salmon in the Classroom - This year saw the return of salmon in the classroom, where Tahltan Fisheries bought all new tanks and systems for the schools in Telegraph Creek, Dease lake and Iskut. Sockeye eggs were taken from Tahltan Lake in the fall of 2017, and planted in the tank in Telegraph and once they were eyed were divided between the three schools.

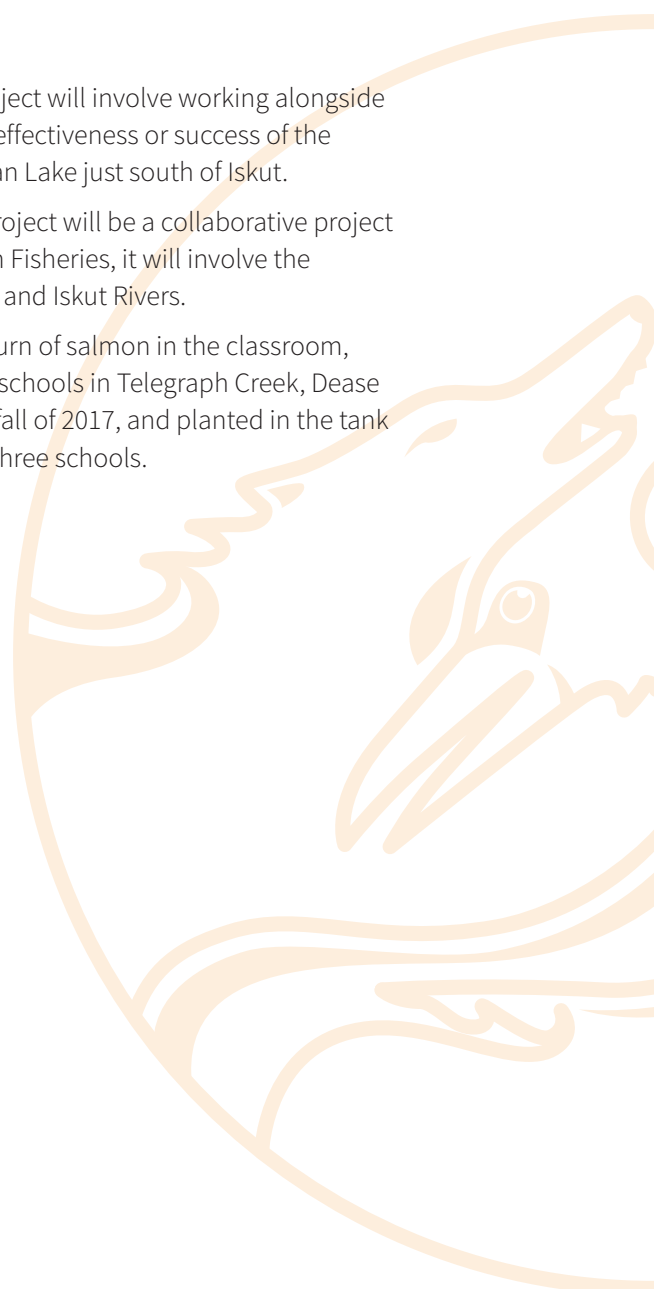
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## Ku we gahn Program

The Ku we gahn Program repairs the harm done by the offender and increases the sense of social justice for the victim, families, and others in the community. The Program operates pre- and post-diversion programs using:

- family group conferencing in a traditional circle format model
- peacemaking circles
- sentencing circles
- mediation processes
- re-integration process
- alternative measures
- court support/advocacy
- services for victims
- victim and offender processes

We operate through the Tahltan Band main office in Telegraph Creek and a sub office through Peoples Haven in Dease Lake.

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### Peoples Haven Contacts:

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## Three Sisters Haven Transition House

The Three Sisters Haven is a Transition House that supports women and children and is working towards a holistic approach to include on-going programs for men as well. Our work is guided by safety, equality and social justice. The tools we use are violence prevention, crisis support, outreach, advocacy, collaboration, and community development. Our staff provide opportunity to explore:

- safety and respect for individuals and families
- healthy lifestyles
- create awareness and recognition of at-risk choices
- domestic violence
- child abuse
- sexual abuse
- community development issues that impact families and individuals

### Contact:

**Melva Quock**, Manager  
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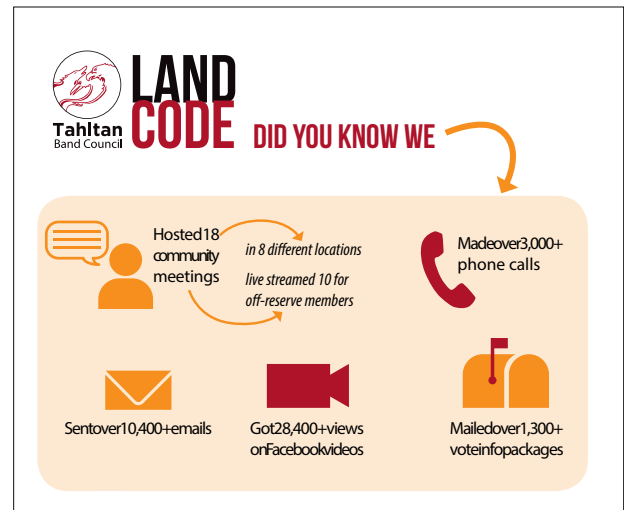


## Land Code

Tahltan Band Council entered into the Land Code process in March of 2014 to determine whether or not the Band should remove ourselves from the sections of the Indian Act that deal with lands management and take back the authority to manage our reserve lands and resources from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC).

In November 2016, a Committee of Band Members started drafting the Land Code, and our team began engaging with community members about the process and the Code. Here is a snapshot of the work that was done to engage members in the process.

During the month of March our team also reached out directly to as many members as possible to answer any last questions and remind everyone to vote.



## Voting Results

In person voting days were held in Iskut (Feb 28 and March 1), Telegraph Creek (March 2 and 3) and Dease Lake (March 4). Additional voting days were held in Dease Lake (March 27) and Telegraph Creek (March 28). Members were also able to vote online and by mail-in ballot. The results of the voting were:

49% - 201 ballots marked "Yes" for the Question

51% - 208 ballots marked "No" for the Question

<1% - 1 ballot was rejected

## Ballot Breakdown

65 mail-in ballots

109 regular ballots

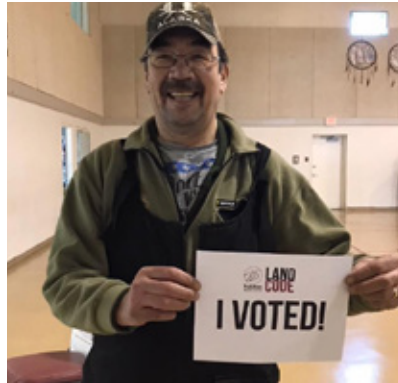
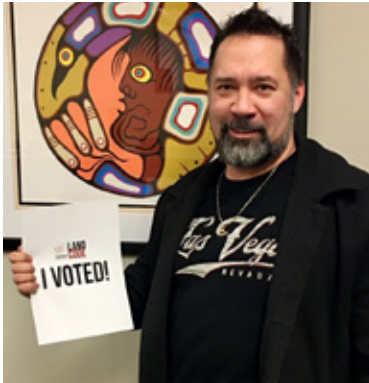
235 electronic ballots

## What we Learned from the Process

The Land Code process was challenging and we learned a lot from our members about how to approach important community issues. We learned that community meetings need to be held with our off-reserve members as soon and as much as possible. We also learned that one-on-one and family meetings are important for making sure everyone is able to express their views and get their questions answered. Ultimately, we learned that processes like these take time and that everyone has a role to play to share ideas, get informed and move the Band in a positive direction.

## Next Steps

We have learned a lot from the process and at some point in the future, with direction from the Members, Band Council may explore the option of putting the Land Code to a second vote. Until then, Tahltan Band reserve lands will continue to be managed by INAC. This will mean that our economic development projects such as the the gasbar/cardlock facility in Dease Lake, will need to go through the INAC process of registering and designating reserve lands before any work can get started.



## Peoples Haven, Dease Lake Programs and Services

Peoples Haven in Dease Lake is a unique centre that houses various programs for the Tahltan Band. Strengthening Families, Building Blocks, Community Wellness, Community Health, Ku'Ve Gahn Justice, Community Based Victim Services, Youth Programing, Mental Health and Wellness Support, Cultural Teachings and Traditional Crafts. These programs and supports are primarily available to community members in Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek, and also includes surrounding communities of Iskut and Good Hope Lake. We work as an integrated team with programs and managers in Telegraph Creek to provide on-going services and opportunities to promote inclusivity, healthy well-being, and cultural knowledge to build healthy relationships and communities.

Our primary focus for 2017/18 has been in Dease Lake to build a youth focused program that promotes belonging, self-esteem, and independence. The youth participated in a “We are Fierce” girls’ empowerment workshop in Prince George; Building Hope Through Self Awareness Workshop in Dease Lake, a spring Ski Trip, and a youth family dance featuring a live local band, just to name a few.

We have focused on “the child at the center”, having various opportunities for parenting and family activities. Our greatest pride and joy for this past year was the competition of our Traditional Hide Tanning Center which opened June 21st 2017, honoring our Elder and Teacher, Penny Louie. This center is to facilitate traditional teachings of the hide tanning process from start to finish, where once the hide is ready for sewing they will make something with it. I have listed below some of the other activities that we either offered and/or participated in:

- Cultural parenting teachings and traditional crafts in Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek.
- FWS hosted Aboriginal Day celebrations in Dease Lake to celebrate our Grand Opening of our Cultural Tanning Center.
- Tahltan Band Fish Camp at Glenora in July: helping young parents and families learn how to prepare, smoke and can salmon.
- Tahltan Band Berry Camp at Burrage, providing rides for families to participate.
- School visits from FWS to promote self-regulation, self-care and communication skills.
- Supported other programs and resources with their groups and special events.
- Continued to host Elementary Students K-6 in Traditional Hide Tanning workshops, where students and staff learned hands on how to tan a raw moose hide, flesh, scrape, stretch and smoke it.
- Participate and contribute to the Wellness Framework for SD#87.

### Kim Rowe

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