



Tahltan

Band Council



2019 Winter Newsletter

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Chief's Update

Well it has been a year since people have returned to Telegraph Creek after the fires and the rebuild continues. The nine new homes being built are being done by Tahltans for Tahltans. We hope to have people moving in sometime next summer. The comprehensive community planning (CCP) project is close to being done, which will lay the way forward for Council decisions on the priorities the community has put forward. Also, much work has been done on updating of the Emergency Management Plan, Evacuation Plan and Business Continuity Plan.

My role encompasses a variety of requirements. Much of my time is spent attending out-of-town meetings with entities such as Indigenous Affairs Canada (ISC), where we have had to work hard to reconcile the fire costs and still move ahead with capital projects. Since the fire I have presented to many communities and governments agencies on the lessons learned from our experience, a responsibility we have in order help others be better prepared. The Council worked hard to have the MEDU ceremony on the one-year anniversary of the fire where we recognized the efforts of the front line workers, fire fighters, and those who helped and donated to the community. This was a well-attended event and a step in the healing process.

Projects completed:

- » Community Garden (Galore Creek Mining Corporation funded);
- » Airport project;
- » Waste transfer station;
- » Tanning cabin; and
- » “Welcome to Telegraph” sign.

I also sit on the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Champions Table. The Champions Table is an undertaking between the Business Council of BC and the BCAFN that establishes a formal dialogue where leaders can come together to explore opportunities, discuss barriers and work jointly to develop and advance a more effective approach to economic development based on reconciliation. One project that we have undertaken is the Indigenous Internship Program delivered through the Vancouver Island University

(VIU) and applies to post secondary students throughout the province. So please visit the VIU web site and look for the Indigenous Intern Program.

Tahltan Band is part of the Stikine Wholistic Working Group 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, School District 87, wildlife, and health. A lot of our work is about creating a true north region and creating the 3N Society, the official entity to govern the 3N partnership. I represent our Band at the 3N table.

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 leadership can implement to solve these issues.

As our community needs and membership grow we have initiated a band governance review and will be working with our managers to asses where we are at and what we need to do to grow our organization effectively. In front of that work, we have hired a new Band Manager and I would like to welcome Rochelle Delarond to the team. Rochelle will be well supported in her role as she will be working closely with Shana in her new role as Finance Officer.

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 goodbyes 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's development, our community's development and our Nation's development. Positive change takes time and commitment.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Medu

Chief Dunna'eh
Rick McLean

Youth Councillor's Update

My name is Jedrek Dendys, and I'm a 20-year-old member of the Tahltan Nation. Currently, I'm attending my third year at the University of Victoria with the intent of finishing a Bachelor of Arts degree with a focus in Political Science. Subsequently, my goal is to obtain a Juris Doctorate Law Degree. Ultimately my main aspiration is to continue to advance our rights and interests as Tahltan, and as First Nations people.

My personal connection to Tahltan culture is very strong, mostly due to my lifelong exposure to it, accompanied by my strong Tahltan ancestry. Although I am part Norwegian and Polish, my ethnicity is predominantly Tahltan. I descend from two of the major families in the Tahltan bloodline: the Ezenlee and Carlicks and have four Tahltan great grandparents: George and Grace Edzerza on my mother's side and Jean and Willie Brown on my father's. In addition, my late grandmother on my mom's side, Thelma Norby, and my grandmother on my dad's side, Lila Brown, were some of the last fluent-speaking Tahltans.

Recently I've been honoured with the opportunity to represent the youth of the Tahltan Nation as their new Youth Leader. Like many other Tahltans, I would return to Telegraph every summer to catch fish, reconnect with family, and learn about what makes me who I am through experience. These are the values that I wish to apply to any initiatives or



programs I'm responsible for, to ensure the youth of our Nation are confident in themselves and their culture. I'll be in the community during the Christmas break and hope to connect with many of you. Although I won't be present at all times, you can reach me with any questions and suggestions you may have for events or programs, or to simply get to know me: jedrekdendys1@gmail.com.

Medu,

Jedrek



Announcement – Tahltan Band Manager

Tahltan Band Council is welcoming a new Band Manager and we are very happy to announce that Rochelle Delaronde joined the team on December 1.

Rochelle is a proud member of the Tahltan Nation. A member of the Tsesk'iya clan, and the Eh'eni family. Rochelle's mother is Ann (Creyke) DeLaRonde, youngest daughter of Dinah (Dennis) Creyke and John Creyke. Rochelle grew up in Pouce Coupe, BC and visited Telegraph Creek in the annual summer season for many years. Tahltan country has always been held dearly in Rochelle's heart, and she is so excited to be a part of the strong and resilient community of Telegraph Creek.

Rochelle has been living in Calgary Alberta, working as a business analyst in the corporate head office of AltaGas Ltd., for the last year and half. Rochelle graduated from Thompson Rivers University in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in human resource Management. Rochelle also has previous field and administration

experience in both the oil and gas, and mining industries.

Shana Dennis will be staying on with Tahltan Band Council to pursue her passion in finance as the Finance Officer. Shana has done so much for the community during her time as Band Manager, and we are happy that she will be staying on with the Band in this important role.

"We are excited to welcome Rochelle as the new Band Manager and to welcome her home to Tahltan territory," said Chief McLean. "Shana has been a wonderful asset to our team, and we look forward to seeing all she can do as our Finance Officer."



Governance and Admin

Personal Message from Shana Dennis:

This past June my oldest child Jay Day graduated from Kitimat City High School and we could not be more proud. I am one course away from completing a Bookkeeping Certificate program that I started Summer 2018 and my goal is to complete the certificate program, apply to a diploma program and continue pursuing my degree in accounting. I have recently taken on a new position with the Tahltan Band and will be stepping away from the Band Manager position, so I can have the flexibility I need to raise my young family and finish my schooling. I remain committed to working with the Tahltan Band team and being an active community member. I will be supporting the new Band Manager Rochelle in her position and look forward to working with her. It's been an honor to work for our members and communities. I must recognize the dedication and great working relations between the current Chief and Council. It's been a pleasure to work for a group of people that are dedicated to building community and practising proactive leadership. I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2020.



Administrative Update

In March the Tahltan Band Chief and Council along with the Tahltan Band Management team completed a "Tahltan Band Council and Administration Strategic Visioning and Work Plan". The session included a debrief session for the group with traditional healer Phil Gatsby.

Together we came up with the Tahltan Band Vision Statement:

Our Tahltan Band Governing Body Is Progressive, Proactive and Cohesive, Guided by Our Nation's Values and Beliefs

2019 Completed Projects:

- » Telegraph Creek Transfer Station now complete and will open in the new year;
- » Sprung Building donated by Samaritan's Purse Complete;
- » Updated Tahltan Band Emergency Plan;
- » IR# 9 Fire Smart Project; and
- » Telegraph Creek Wildfire Memorial Garden.

Current and Ongoing Projects:

- » Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) for Telegraph and Dease Lake, scheduled completion January 2019;
- » Updating the Tahltan Band Council's Governance Manual, scheduled completion January 2020;
- » Workplan Training for Management and Tahltan Band Organizational structure review. scheduled for completion March 2020;
- » Tahltan Band Emergency Business Continuity Plan Scheduled to be complete by March 2020; and
- » Rebuilding of homes in Telegraph Creek Completion in the New year 2020.

Derek Ingram completed the Tahltan Band recovery plan post wildfire and completed his term position as Recovery Manager with the Tahltan Band in January

2019. We thank him for all his work and dedication to the communities and members during the 2018 wildfire and a special acknowledgement of his work to rebuild the Telegraph Creek Community Garden.

This year the Tahltan Band started a New Housing Authority – the Stikine Housing Authority – to oversee the management of the 18 houses in Dease Lake. Through the current housing program Tahltan Band is taking care of the day-to-day management of the units. If you have any questions about housing in Dease Lake, please contact Teneal Nole 250-771-5577

Feddie Louie has taken on a new role of Capital Manager and we welcome her in this new role and support her, as it's going to be the program that will develop all the Tahltan Band's major infrastructure planned for Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek in the coming year.

This fall, the Tahltan Band completed a Fire Smart Project on IR#9 in Dease Lake and we would like to thank the crews that completed this very important project in a timely and professional manner and acknowledge the importance of this work. There will be more Fire Smart projects developed and planned for both Telegraph and Dease Lake in the coming years.

The Tahltan Band welcomed Jamie Henryu to join the Economic Development Department and acknowledge his willingness to learn and participate at all levels. Jamie has been covering the emergency management program during the 2019 season and has showed a keen interest in coordinating emergency programs.

The Tahltan Band also recently added Heather Hawkins to our Social Development team, assisting with and administrating the Income Assistance Program for Telegraph and Dease Lake. We welcome Heather and her expertise and acknowledge the good job she has done to date and look forward to the continued work in this department. Please connect with Heather Hawkins if you have any questions about income assistance at 250-235-3151.



Recovering from the Fire

First and foremost, I have to give a huge shout out to all Tahltans and others who stepped up to assist the community during the fire and the rebuilding of community, we are definitely **#TAHLTANSTRONG**. Without each and every one of you we don't know what would have occurred because we suffered the MOST DEVASTATING DAMAGE BY WILDFIRE TO FIRST NATION COMMUNITY IN CANADIAN HISTORY BUT WE ALSO PULLED OFF THE FASTEST RECOVERY OF THIS SIZE IN THE COUNTRY.

Telegraph Creek was under an evacuation order for 102 days.

From evacuation order to when the last family returned home was 146 days.

This included the families who lost their homes, they all had another place to call home.

A loud shout out to Tahltan Band Council (Rick, Scott, Brian, Darla, Rocky) for their faith, guidance and trust in my leadership to rebuild the community. You made the whole process easier and thank you for the unwavering SUPPORT, not only in front of government but also behind the scenes. You don't know how much easier you made the job and how much I appreciate that. THANK YOU!



A super loud shout out to the team who worked tirelessly throughout the response and recovery phases of the fire. Many of you had to keep going each day, despite having to deal with the fire impacts personally. Many people don't stop to think about that. The fact that many of you were also evacuated and living in unfamiliar places but still showing up to work each day shows what HEROS are made of and you are my heroes, THANK YOU!

The firefighters, including all the heavy equipment operators and our O&M personnel.

The band staff, you never missed a beat and our people never lost services.

The Emergency Operations Centre team, you made it happen.

The Health and Social team, OMG, I totally admire your care, support and love you show our people day in and day out. You are an amazing group.

The case workers, my goodness, you make coordinating and getting people home in an organized fashion look very easy. GOOD JOB!

And finally, I want to acknowledge and hold my hands up to each of the community members who had to endure the stress and losses and anxiety throughout this ordeal, YOU ARE AMAZING and definitely **#TAHLTANSTRONG**. Love you all and so proud of how resilient you are.

A short summary of the fire impacts:

Alkali Lake Fire devastated the community of Telegraph Creek in the summer of 2018 and displaced the entire community for more than 20 weeks from August to December. It destroyed 21 homes, 27 structures, and numerous vehicles such as trucks, cars, ATVs, snowmobiles.

The fire created several health and safety issues within and around the community:

- » The entire water system was contaminated by surface water that was needed for firefighting;
- » There were danger trees everywhere (trees still standing but roots have been burned), power lines were down, our communication system was down, slope instability was created from vegetation being burned, road access was unstable due to potential landslides, rodents were invading vacant homes, and contaminated soot and ash covered the remaining homes and community;
- » Every building that remained standing had to be inspected by a structural engineer to ensure its integrity had not been compromised; and
- » Finally, homes had to be cleaned inside and out to remove the ash and smoke, each unit was washed and painted inside, and power washed on the outside, and insulation from attics was removed and replaced. This process took the longest of all the cleaning that had been done for the community.

Our company, TNDC, was contracted to clean up the community and remove the debris left from the fire. Napp Enterprises came in and oversaw site clean up where homes were burnt. This was due to potential hazardous material contamination in each site such as asbestos, lead and other contaminants. Prior to the clean up, Samaritans Purse provided a sifting service to homeowners to recover some of their things that were burned but not destroyed.

Our community members were evacuated to



outside communities such as Terrace, Iskut, Dease and as far away as Prince George and Whitehorse. They were financially supported by Tahltan Central Government, Emergency Support Services and Tahltan Band Council through out the process.

Throughout the evacuation process, the TBC staff continued to provide support and services to members wherever they were located. EOC hired a few more workers to help provide extra support as needed. During the final stages of recovery, EOC hired three case workers to work with each individual in preparation for them to return to their home and community. These workers were responsible for ensuring every family was involved in cleaning their homes, and in replacing furniture, coordinating rides, and shipping belongings and furniture. They also assisted EOC with coordinating and prioritizing families for their return in a safe and systematic fashion, with the goal of having everyone back in their homes before Christmas. There were many minor glitches but nothing that the EOC and TBC team didn't overcome.

Feddie Louie

Comprehensive Community Plan

Over the past year we have been working towards the completion of our Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP). All community members were welcome to attend four community meetings and provide their input to the CCP. The meetings were organized in an “open house” format where participants received a CCP passport and stickers for completing various self-directed and facilitated activities. Throughout the project, 165 CCP passports were filled out and returned.

The first CCP workshop was held on March 26th in Dease Lake and March 27th in Telegraph Creek. Members were asked to identify the Tahltan Band’s community vision, values, and priorities for the future. The vision, values and priorities then became the framework for the CCP and for the next steps in its development.

The second CCP workshop was held May 1st in Dease Lake and May 2nd in Telegraph Creek. The focus of the meeting was Tahltan Band’s “built environment”: the purpose-built structures, features, and facilities in our communities. Specifically, this meeting focused on Tahltan Band’s shared spaces (the buildings and spaces that the community uses and shares), community infrastructure, and sustainable economic development aspirations.



The third workshop was held September 16th in Dease Lake and September 17th in Telegraph Creek. This workshop focused on identifying Tahltan Band’s programs and services priorities for social development and community justice, governance and administration, reserve land and environment, health and wellness, education and knowledge, and culture and language.

To supplement what we heard in the engagement workshops, a community planning survey was created and distributed over the summer to all community members to gather further information on their priorities for the Tahltan community.

The Draft CCP report was presented to the Tahltan Band community in meetings held December 10th in Dease Lake and December 11th in Telegraph Creek. We are currently making final updates to the CCP and the final document will be available in the new year.

Our CCP represents our voice and our desires for the future of our communities. It is our road map that will guide the work of Tahltan Chief and Council, Band staff, and members to shape the future of Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek and will help us track our progress and measure the impacts of our decisions over the coming years.

Economic Development

As Capital Projects Manager, my main duties are to find or negotiate funding for and then oversee and manage any capital projects that Council has identified as a priority. In this role, I also prepare projects that have been identified as a priority for presentation to Council, which includes any feasibility studies, funding applications, or professional services like engineering and architecture etc.

In 2019 we completed the following projects:

- » Transfer station (final report pending)
- » Airport upgrade (final report pending)
- » Repairs to the exterior of fire impacted homes and community buildings
- » Fire damage assessments on homes and community buildings

2019 projects in progress:

- » Design and construction of new nursing residence
- » Explore options for Headstart facilities
- » Explore purchase of shares in Super A for TBC (owner to supply environmental certificate and business evaluation)
- » Telegraph Creek water system upgrade assessment and project development
- » IR #13 final design in Dease Lake (Parcel A)
- » Oversee contracting and construction of 9 homes in Telegraph Creek
- » Completing the following community plans:
 - CCP (Community Comprehensive Plan)
 - PDP (Physical Development Plan)
 - LUP (Land Use Plan)
 - Economic Development Fire Impact Assessment
 - Green Energy Assessment (on-going)
 - TC Year - round green house (feasibility started



Oct 2019)

I have also been keeping busy on outstanding tasks from the impacts of the fire on the community, including:

- » Reconciling revenue and expenditures for the fire account
- » Finalizing the insurance claim with the adjuster
- » Working with ISC, Emergency Management BC, Regional District of Kitimat Stikine, Red Cross and BC Wildfire to ensure all fire damages are identified and rectified

Finally, I provide support to the Band Manager and Economic Development Officer as needed in moving the following projects forward:

- » TBDC buy-in Super A (owners need to produce documentation)
- » Post fire Economic Development assessment (about 75% complete)
- » Riversong Café and Motel planning (started Nov 2019)
- » Emergency Management Planning (95% complete)
 - Tahltan Center Operations (on-going with Shana)

People's Haven

Our team hosts programs for Tahltan Band and we are very happy with all the events we have hosted this year:

- » Indigenous Day Celebrations in Iskut
- » Five-day literacy camp in Telegraph Creek for nine kids and three chaperones
- » Two-day literacy camp in Iskut for five kids
- » Five-day Painted Turtle Camp for kids ages 5 and up
- » Five-day carving workshop at Fish Camp in Telegraph Creek
- » Come Alive five-day program in both Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake
- » After-school programs for ages 5-12 hosted by Elizabeth, started in September
- » Hosting grades K-9 once or twice per week at Peoples Haven
- » Two youth attended the Youth Leadership Symposium on the Sunshine Coast
- » SWWG update community dinner meeting
- » Drumming and Dancing Practice
- » Regalia making
- » Supporting Jujitsu classes at Dease Lake School
- » Movie nights for youth



- » SD87 Dease Lake School Cultural and Language programs and activities
- » Sponsoring five parents to attend the Aboriginal Parenting Conference in Prince George

We also hosted three training programs for the community:

- » Water safety for children
- » First Aid level 1
- » Psychological First Aid

The Early Learning program is finally a reality for Dease Lake.

We have secured the preschool building at SD87 for two years, hopefully with the option to extend. We started our Early Learning Program in early November, which will allow for all ages to attend the program either full or half day. Derek and Marilyn have been working tirelessly these past two months to get the building and grounds ready for the little ones. They have created an amazing space.

The Early Learning Program does not cost parents or caregivers to attend, thus allowing us time to finish getting the program ready for licensing. We have two employees and two community members signed up for the Early Childhood Educator/Early Childhood Educator Assistant training. The SWWG program will be paying for the first course, registration and books to support the people taking the course. The course will certify them to work in the Early Learning Program.

We are very proud of the team we have here:

» Family Wellness

- Kim Rowe - Office Manager/Family Development Worker
- Carmen Dennis - Cultural and Family Skills
- Penny Louie - Traditional Family Skills and Development
- Kailene Louie - Office receptionist/Post office backup
- Elizabeth Meila - Right To Play Mentor/Youth Worker
- Marilyn McCord-Supervisor Early Learning Program

» Building Blocks

- Shiela Davidson - Building Blocks Support Worker, Early Learning Program

» Justice

- April Quock - Community Based Victim Services and Women's outreach
- Andrea Louie - Justice Worker, Iskut, Dease Lake, and Good Hope Lake

» Health

- Bluebell Quock - Community Health Resource Worker/Elder Care
- Sona Dennis - Healing through Language and Culture Youth

» Housing

- Teneal Nole - Housing Manager

» Dease Lake Post Office

- CJ Smith

Sadly we lost one of our most valued co-worker's in November, Sandy G passed way in November 2019. She is very much missed by our staff and community. She wasn't just a co-worker, she was part of our family, she stepped into many roles and was very much a support to everyone.

Kim Rowe



Transition and Dease Lake Programs and Services

Three Sisters Haven

It's been a work in progress to get the Safehouse up and operating since the fire last summer. The staff and hired contractors have worked collaboratively to correct immediate safety issues. They have rearranged and cleaned up the basement and have cleaned up old computers, printers, and outdated files. We started the yard work and will continue in early summer to put the lawn back in and complete the fence.

The house had more clients this summer compared to past years. The Safehouse is open to the community for laundry and a new service we are offering for transportation in and around town. The staff did some community outreach with Elders and with young women and will continue to move forward with this initiative. The staff engaged in a few community events including pickling veggies, salsa making, berry picking and cutting up a moose.

We are planning to do more community events throughout the winter months for children and families. We will be using the camps over the winter for the Men's Group. These events will be posted once the scheduling is completed.



Christmas Break: The staff will be available throughout the holidays. Contact # 1-888-414-2836. The Telegraph Creek Rec Center will be open throughout the Christmas Break for kids, family, and adult events. Watch for the poster at the store, rec, and Telegraph Creek clinic!

Kuwegahn Program update

New Hire: We would like to welcome April Quock to our team. April is the Community Victim Service Worker who works within the RCMP Dease Lake catchment area (Dease, Telegraph, Iskut, and Good Hope) to assist clients who have witnessed or endured abuse. April started with us by attending a Community Justice Form training along with Andrea Louie. She will have more training as opportunities come available. April is located at the Peoples Haven in Dease Lake and can be reached at 250-771-5577.

The Kuwegahn Program will be very active in the new year setting up an Elders' Council. The Elders' that attended the TCG Special AGA have given direction to rebirth our Tahltan Law by a community-based approach to deal with crime, the effects of crime, and the prevention of crime. This program will also help address historical, sexual, and domestic abuse. This community approach will empower and increase safety in our communities and give an opportunity to make it right. The staff will be active in collecting stories on the Kuwegahn to compile a booklet. Andrea and April both attended "Positive Choices-Positive Voices 1" with Andy Neiman and will attend the second and third set in the upcoming months. This event was well received in Telegraph as well.

Education Program

Post-secondary

This year we have 32 post-secondary students. Please keep the applications coming! The program is still open, and we are accepting new applications.

Admissions for any program must state Grade 12 or equivalent

Duration: at least 8 weeks

For more clarity on eligibility and recognized institutions and programs, check out the Indigenous Services Canada website for more information:

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100033682/1531933580211>

Qualifications and eligibility are similar to our local operating policy, which will be updated this year and posted to our website.



Secondary

We have seven secondary student this year, attending school in various places. For these students, the Christmas travel payment will be combined for parents or guardians to pick them up and take them back to school in January.

Hope you all have wonderful and safe Christmas Holidays! See all in the new year.

If individuals have questions for the Department, please direct them to 1-800-567-9604.



Housing

This year we worked with the First Nations Health Authority to inspect identified homes for mold damage. We determined there were seven homes that reported mold, and they will be getting mold remediation either this year or early next year.

We have been working to address issues as they arise. I would like to remind everyone that an issue can only be determined if it is reported to the housing department.

The Housing Department was approved for a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation grant for two youth maintenance trainees and an “on the job training” assistant. For the youth maintenance positions we had applications come in from Dease Lake and we hired two new term employees: congratulations Shelby Marion and Natalia Dennis. They will be working hard to meet housing needs in the community of Dease Lake and also to assist in Telegraph as needed on a priority basis. We hired another applicant from Dease Lake for the “on the job training” assistant and are happy to have them with us.

We have had septs replaced as emergencies have come up. We have also had IR# 9 furnaces fully upgraded; they are now burning new Caddy furnaces. We also had five furnaces so far and hopefully more to come for our community of Telegraph Creek. We are wrapping up on three major housing projects and will continue to work hard



making sure people’s housing needs are being met.

We are looking forward to installing the new housing software for both Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake. We have purchased software to help with the program and to digitize housing information and history. I am also looking forward to introducing the new approved housing policy.

We currently have 97 on-reserve housing units and 24 off-reserve housing units that are being managed by our housing department. Our two maintenance staff and assistant in Dease Lake have been very helpful to ensure things are moving along smoothly, as well as assisting our Maintenance Department in Telegraph Creek with needs as they arise.

Maintenance

We are currently working on opening our new transfer-station which is located next to LDM’s shop in Telegraph and is now 95% complete. Through this program, we convinced our funder to purchase a new manitou telehandler and a new bandit X75 wood chipper. We are currently converting the fisheries warehouse to be Tahltan Bands new tire / repair shop. We have been working with green sunrising to acquire funding to buy and install solar panels on our main buildings and possible each home in Telegraph. We are also working on completing our acres 1 and 2 projects throughout our communities.

Dwayne

Health

The health team at Tahltan Band has been very busy in 2019. Throughout the year, we have been able to provide the following programs to our members:

- » Canada Prenatal and Nutrition
- » Mental health programming including solvent abuse and Brighter Futures
- » Injury prevention
- » Aboriginal diabetes programming
- » Health protection
- » Home care
- » Medical transportation
- » Dental benefits
- » Visits with doctors
- » Health governance

We employ 14 staff and are able to leverage multiple funding sources to do our important work. We hope that our community members enjoyed the events



this year, including the Youth Sun Run, the Baby Welcoming Ceremony, and Bike Rodeo.

We are planning to do many more events and hope you will join us.

Upcoming events :

- » Dec. 19 – Cookie Exchange
- » Dec. (every Tuesday evening) – crafts – Making Christmas projects in December
- » Dec.13 – Gingerbread house making with families
- » Dec. 9 – Dease Lake Elders Christmas luncheon
- » Dec.16 – Telegraph Creek Elders Christmas luncheon
- » January – Wellness Week
- » February – Lateral Kindness Workshop
- » February – Winter Wellness Week

Mobile Support Team

The Mobile Support Team (MST) now has 7 positions on the team:

- » Mental Health Nurse – Adam Pratt
- » 3 Clinicians – Klaus Muller, Devin Pollitt, and Kevin Mellis
- » Youth Worker – Vernon Asp
- » Program Liaison – Silvana Quigley
- » Program Lead – Nancy Norby-Quock

We are currently working on our calendars and will post it publicly soon.

The Tahltan Mobile Support Team would like to wish everyone a safe and festive Holiday Season.

Nancy Norby-Quock, MST Team Lead



Membership

Today our Tahltan Band membership is 1,959 members living both on and off reserve.

There have been changes to how to register your child:

- » The application it now consists of 6 pages
- » You will also need include a photocopy of the ID for the parents whose child is registering
- » You must include a Guarantor Declaration form with the signature of the Guarantor Transfer
- » The Guarantor must sign and date the photocopies of the front and back of your supporting documents

NOTE: you must still include your original, long form birth document with the parent or parents names included.

If you're applying for both registration and for the Secure Certificate and Indian Status, the guarantor





must also sign and date the back of the one of your photos and write the statement “this is the true likeness of (your name)”.

Changes to Transfers:

- » Effective immediately, releasing BCRs are no longer needed for band transfers
- » Youth 16 years of age or older sign their own consent to transfers
- » For all transfers ISIC requires original copies and signatures
- » For the consent form, please include all correct information that is stated on your current card

Renewing your CIS:

You can either renew in person at the Band office, or apply online at <https://www.canada.ca/indian-status>.

There is SCIS Photo App for free download on the Apple App Store or Google Play, which will electronically send your photo to ISC.

Changes just got implemented on the Bill S-3, see the information on the next page.

If members have any questions, please call Indian Status Canada at 1-800-567-9604.

What is Bill S-3?

An Act to amend the Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in *Descheneaux c. Canada (Procureur général)* (**Bill S-3**) It received Royal Assent on December 12, 2017, with the majority of amendments coming into force on December 22, 2017

The second phase of amendments is coming into force on August 15, 2019

Who does Bill S-3 impact?

Bill S-3 extends entitlement to the descendants of women who lost status on marriage.

Newly Entitled Individuals

- They have a grandmother who lost status on marriage to a non-Indian and
- They have a parent(s) who is entitled to be/registered under subsection 6 (2) and born before September 4, 1951 **OR**
- They are a direct descendent of such a person

Why did the law change?

- To address all remaining sex-inequities in Indian registration
- To respond to the Report on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- To respond to multiple calls from Senators, Indigenous women's groups, the Assembly of First Nations
- To comply with the United Nations Human Rights Committee's ruling of a breach of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and avoid further Charter challenges

What does this mean for my day-to-day functions?

Regional office will continue to process applications for individuals born on or after April 17, 1985 who are eligible for registration under paragraph 6(1)(f) and subsection 6(2) of the *Indian Act*.

What if an applicant indicated they are impacted by Bill S-3?

Regional Offices remain encouraged to forward applications related to Bill S-3 to the Winnipeg Processing Unit until further notice.

What should I tell applicants when asked about Bill S-3?

- Website information will be updated to provide instructions for those individuals newly entitled under the amendments.
- Applicants who submitted an application form for registration that was received prior to the coming into force date of the removal of the 1951 cut-off will not need to re-apply.
- Individuals who are already registered do not need to re-apply.
- Individuals who were previously denied entitlement to Indian status but believe they qualify under the legislative amendment of Bill S-3 will need to re-apply.

Application instructions

Applications can be made in person at a Regional Office or directly by mail to:

The Application Processing Unit
Indigenous Services Canada
PO Box 6700
Winnipeg MB R3C 5R5

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Tahltan Band Council





Phone: 250-235-3151

Fax: 250-235-3244

Mailing Address: PO Box 46 Telegraph
Creek, BC V0J 2W0

Email: info@tahltan.ca

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<https://tahltan.ca>