

TAHLTAN BAND

2026 ANNUAL REPORT



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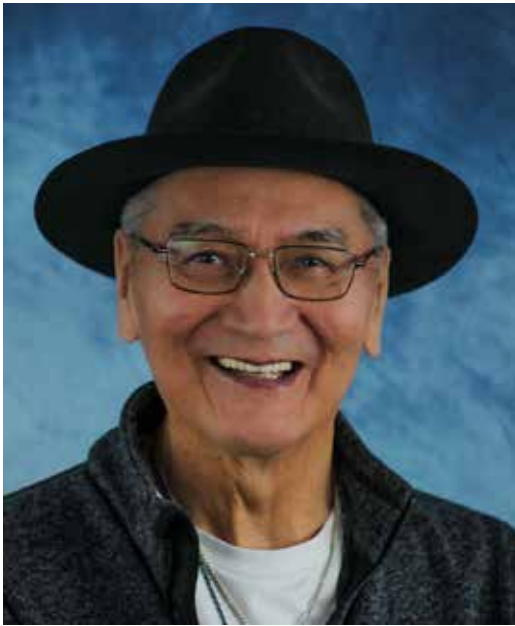
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Richard (Rocky) Jackson

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF

I am honoured to have served our community as Chief since January 2025. Over the past year and a half, the Tahltan Band has experienced many important events, initiatives, and projects that continue to shape the future of our communities.

I would like to recognize the important role of the Tahltan Band within the Tahltan Nation and our continued collaboration on major initiatives, including advancing IR 13 as a key step toward improving housing and infrastructure for our communities, the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) and Section 7, and Newmont's Red Chris Block Cave Project Section 7.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Christine Ball for her 19 years of dedicated service as our Tahltan Band Health Director. Her leadership, compassion, and commitment to the wellbeing of our people have left a lasting impact on our communities.

Over the past year, our leadership and staff have worked through complex challenges related to development projects, government processes, environmental stewardship, and governance priorities. I want to acknowledge the leadership team, staff, and advisors who worked tirelessly with professionalism, resilience, and a strong commitment to our members and communities.

Looking back, the Tahltan Band has seen many meaningful events, initiatives, and capital projects that continue to strengthen our communities. I extend my appreciation to Margaret Asp for serving as Acting Deputy Chief and taking on greater responsibilities within the community, as well as to those who provided leadership in band administration, brought community events and celebrations to life, coordinated important awareness initiatives, and created valuable opportunities and activities for Tahltan youth, families, and children.

We heard from you, our members, that you wanted improved communication. One of the areas where we made meaningful progress over the past year has been strengthening our communication efforts through the Tahltan Band Facebook page, an improved website, and our monthly e-newsletter. These platforms help us share community news, project updates, events, scholarships, employment opportunities, training programs, and other important resources. I encourage all members to sign up for the e-newsletter to stay informed and connected.

Looking ahead, our priorities include advancing IR 13, improving water treatment infrastructure, progressing the Addition to Reserve (ATR) process, upgrading the recreation centre, advancing drainage and fire protection projects, and continuing work on the Tahltan Store and Cultural Centre initiatives.

We will also continue moving forward on important governance priorities, including Land Code, the Land Use Plan, the Custom Elections Code, and Tax Law development. Together, these initiatives will help strengthen our infrastructure, governance, economic development, and long-term sustainability for future generations.

I am deeply grateful to our members, staff, Council, Elders, youth, and partners for their continued dedication to our community. Together, we will continue building a stronger, healthier, and brighter future for the Tahltan Band.



Shana Dennis

MESSAGE FROM BAND MANAGER

The 2025–2026 fiscal year has been a time of transition, planning, and organizational growth for the Tahltan Band. Throughout the year, administration has focused on strengthening governance, building financial capacity, advancing community wellness initiatives, and supporting long-term infrastructure and strategic priorities for Tahltan communities.

Moving forward, we will continue to build strong partnerships, improve internal systems, and advance initiatives that align with the priorities of Chief and Council and the needs of Tahltan members.

1 Strategic Planning and Governance

From March 2025 through July 2025, we undertook significant work to advance the Tahltan Band's strategic planning and governance process. This included engaging with leadership, staff, and community members to identify key priorities and long-term goals related to governance, infrastructure, economic development, wellness, and community services.

We will continue strategic planning throughout the fiscal year and work to align this process closely with the broader Tahltan Nation Strategic Plan 2026–2031, which was completed during the reporting period. This planning process established a strong foundation for future organizational decision-making and long-term sustainability.

Additional governance work we supported included:

- Ongoing updates to the Tahltan Band Policy Manual
- Job description reviews and updates
- Staff training and organizational development initiatives
- Continued administrative support during the Interim CAO transition period

2 Finance Department Capacity Development

Between December 2025 and June 2026, we worked collaboratively with the Financial Management Board to strengthen the capacity of the Finance Department. This partnership focused on providing training, support, and organizational capacity development to improve financial management systems and practices.

We are proud to have achieved several key accomplishments, including completing the BEAR Assessment, developing financial management improvement strategies, supporting finance staff training and organizational capacity building, and advancing recruitment efforts for a new Accounts Receivable position.

We also began planning for the retirement transition of long-serving employee Sherry Woods, whose retirement is anticipated in 2026. Succession planning and knowledge transfer have been identified as key priorities to support departmental continuity and ensure a smooth transition.

3 Family Services and Community Wellness Initiatives

The Tahltan Band has continued to advance important work related to family wellness, healing, and community services.

I would like to acknowledge the significant progress the team has made in improving the well-being of Tahltan families and communities. This work has included the ongoing development of the Tahltan Band Family Services program, advancement of the feasibility study for the Telegraph Creek Cultural and Wellness Centre, and continued progress on the Capital Needs Assessment to support Family Services and broader community infrastructure priorities.

We also continued negotiations related to Section 92.1 and the MCFD and Tahltan Nation Protocol Agreement. This work is essential to supporting greater Tahltan involvement and jurisdiction in family and child services.

In support of community wellness and healing, we initiated in partnership with the Iskut Band the Bear Paw six-week pilot project, scheduled for April to May 2026. This initiative focuses on Tahltan on-the-land wellness and healing programming grounded in culture, language, and traditional practices.

4 Capital Projects and Community Infrastructure

Our Chief and Council continued to prioritize major capital projects in the Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake communities. This work reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening community infrastructure and advancing long-term development priorities for Tahltan members. Over the past year, key initiatives included IR 13 development planning in Dease Lake, Recreation Centre renovation planning in Telegraph Creek, feasibility and planning work for the Telegraph Creek Cultural and Family Wellness Centre, advancement of the Tahltan Band Fire Hall design and fire truck project in Telegraph Creek, renovation and expansion planning for the People's Haven in Dease Lake, and planning for renovations and improvements to the Safe House in Telegraph Creek.

During the fiscal year, we advanced several important milestones, including:

- Commencement of IR 13 clearing activities, contracted to TNDC
- Initial planning discussions regarding the Tahltan Band IR 13 Housing Plan
- Community engagement sessions on Tahltan Band Reserve Land Planning
- Continued draft land planning work for reserve lands and future development priorities
- Addition to Reserve Land Planning for Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake

5 Tourism and Economic Development

We continued to support tourism and economic development planning during the reporting period, with a focus on identifying opportunities that align with Tahltan values, culture, and long-term economic priorities.

The Tahltan Nation Tourism Strategy 2026 advanced during the year. Initial community engagement sessions were planned for April and May 2026 across all three Tahltan communities to gather feedback, share ideas, and identify tourism development opportunities that reflect community interests and priorities.

We also participated in the BC Mineral and Mining Roundup 2026 in Vancouver. This provided an important opportunity to support relationship building, advance economic discussions, and engage with industry and government partners.

6 Community Events and Cultural Activities

We are proud to acknowledge the work completed in planning and preparing for the Winter Classic 2026 event in Telegraph Creek. This work reflects our continued commitment to supporting community events that bring members together and create meaningful opportunities for cultural connection, recreation, and community engagement.

Events such as the Winter Classic play an important role in strengthening relationships, celebrating community spirit, and creating spaces where Tahltan members can gather, connect, and participate in shared cultural and recreational activities.

7 Health Department Transition

During the fiscal year, the Tahltan Band experienced an important leadership transition within the Health Department.

Planning commenced for the recruitment of a Health Director for Telegraph Creek following the retirement announcement of former Health Director Christine Ball. Christine retired on May 1, 2026, after 19 years of dedicated service to Tahltan people and communities.

We recognize and thank Christine Ball for her longstanding commitment, leadership, and meaningful contributions to community health and wellness initiatives over nearly two decades of service.

As the Tahltan Band moves forward into the 2026–2027 fiscal year, administration will remain focused on:

- Implementing strategic plan priorities
- Strengthening organizational governance and financial systems
- Advancing housing and infrastructure development
- Expanding family wellness and healing initiatives
- Supporting staff development and succession planning
- Continuing collaborative work with leadership, community members, and external partners

CHRISTINE BALL RETIRING AFTER 19 YEARS

Tribute to Christine Ball on Her Retirement After 19 Years of Dedicated Service to the Community

Christine has been an integral part of our organization as Health Director, and her leadership, compassion, and commitment to the health and wellbeing of our community have made a lasting impact. Her contributions over the years have helped shape the programs and services we provide today, and her presence will be deeply missed.

We extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to Christine Ball for her 19 years of dedicated service, unwavering effort, and meaningful contributions to the Tahltan Band and our community.

We wish Christine all the very best as she enters a well-earned retirement.





PRESS RELEASE

ESKAY CREEK REVITALIZATION PROJECT IBA: TAHLTAN NATION VOTE YES

Message From Tahltan Leadership

Dear Tahltan Nation,

With 1753 ballots cast [53.3% of eligible voters voted] and 1357 voting YES [77.4% in favour] and 388 voting NO to the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project IBA, the Tahltan Nation has expressed their strong support for this IBA.

Tahltan Leadership would like to thank everyone who exercised their right to vote. Our Nation deeply values the input of each member.

Whichever way you voted, it is important to remember that we all remain family and we are strongest when we walk together in a good way.

The TCG, Iskut Band and Tahltan Band are and will remain focused on building a strong and healthy future grounded in respect, unity, and transparency.

In unity and respect,

President Kerry Carlick, Chief Marie Quock, Chief Richard (Rocky) Jackson

TAHLTAN LEADERSHIP

PROVINCE APPROVES ESKAY CREEK MINE

First Declaration Act Section 7 agreement
January 27, 2026

The Province and the Tahltan Nation have reached a historic milestone by jointly making regulatory decisions on the reopening of the Eskay Creek gold-silver mine through the first-ever Declaration Act Section 7 agreement. The project is expected to deliver lasting benefits for the Tahltan Nation and people who live throughout British Columbia by creating jobs and supporting economic growth.

The decisions by the Province and Tahltan Central Government on the Eskay Creek Revitalization project were made under the Province's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act). This consent-based Section 7 agreement, signed between Tahltan Central Government and the Province in 2022, required the free, prior and informed consent of the Tahltan Nation for the project to proceed, reflecting a new approach to decision-making that recognizes Indigenous rights and jurisdictions within provincial processes.

This agreement demonstrates how the Declaration Act is being implemented in a meaningful and practical way. It advances the Province's commitment to reconciliation by moving beyond consultation toward collaborative consent-based decision-making, strengthening relationships with First Nations, and creating a respectful, transparent and predictable framework for resource development in British Columbia.

Through a strong, collaborative review process, and following issuance of Tahltan's consent decision to the Environmental Assessment Office, the Province issued the Environmental

Assessment Certificate and the Major Mines Permit for the reopening of the Eskay Creek gold-silver mine. Priority projects are about actions government can take to improve efficiency in decision-making, while still ensuring these projects continue to meet B.C.'s world-class safety and environmental standards and commitments to consultation.

The Tahltan Central Government and Province are also entering into a mineral tax revenue sharing agreement, with the first mineral tax payment available as early as 2027-2028.

“The consent agreement for Eskay Creek marks a turning point for Tahltan people and for how decisions are made in Tahltan Territory. By recognizing Tahltan jurisdiction and placing our values at the centre of environmental assessment and permitting processes, this agreement shows what is possible when Indigenous rights and priorities are respected in provincial law. It sets a strong foundation for responsible resource development that better aligns with our stewardship responsibilities.”

Chief Richard (Rocky) Jackson



PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE: IR 13

For a long time—across both previous and current leadership—we have heard from you that our Nation needs more housing, and our people want to see more coming back from development into our three communities.

During the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project IBA, you told us you wanted the opportunity to help finance housing and infrastructure improvements at home.

We carried that message to the table. We fought hard to secure those opportunities in the agreement, and we continue to push—working with the Provincial and Federal governments—to bring even more back to our Nation.

In February, leadership from all three governments met at Bear Paw to focus on turning that direction into action. A key priority coming out of those discussions is advancing IR 13 as a first step toward unlocking real progress on housing and infrastructure for our communities.

We also want to acknowledge and thank past leadership who helped move IR 13 to the point where this work can begin. That

progress did not happen overnight, and it reflects years of effort and commitment to our people.

As part of moving this forward, we have directed Tahltan Nation Development Corporation—our economic arm—to begin clearing and grubbing work on IR 13, so that we can prepare the site for future housing and infrastructure development.

This is about following through on what we heard from you—making sure development leads to real, tangible improvements for our people, and building a stronger future for all three communities.

In unity and respect,

President Kerry Carlick, Chief Marie Quock, Chief Richard (Rocky) Jackson
TAHLTAN LEADERSHIP





DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

» Jenn Wunder—Director «

Over the past year, we have made significant progress in strengthening support for children, youth, and families through the development of the new Child and Family Wellness Department. This work builds on our commitment to placing children and families at the centre of community wellness and decision-making.

In August 2025, Jenn Wunder was hired as the Social Programs Director to oversee the social program departments and support the development of Child and Family Wellness programming and services. Since that time, we have focused on building the foundation of the department, identifying community needs, strengthening partnerships, and creating more opportunities for meaningful programming within Tahltan communities.

We reached a major milestone in April 2026 with the hiring of two full-time Child and Family Wellness Coordinators. Darla Creyke was hired in Telegraph Creek, and Rusheal Andre was hired in Dease Lake. We created these positions to support the ongoing delivery of regular programming, events, and wellness initiatives focused on children, youth, and families in each community. Their addition has helped us increase local capacity and create more consistent support and engagement opportunities for families.

At the time of writing, we are also in the process of recruiting four additional full-time Youth Worker positions, with two positions in each community. These staff will serve as front-line workers supporting us in the delivery of child, youth, and family wellness programs.

We have also worked collaboratively to organize and deliver a variety of successful programs and events for community members. Highlights included after-school youth programming in Telegraph Creek, which provided youth with safe and engaging activities, as well as a community painting night in Dease Lake that encouraged creativity and connection. We also partnered with other community organizations to support



important events and initiatives, including Red Dress Day and Mother's Day activities.

Since fall 2025, we have also been able to offer basketball training, music lessons, and literacy and tutoring support. Upcoming programs include Hand Games, karate, guitar, and baseball.

Although the department is still in its early stages, we have laid important groundwork over the past year to support continued growth and expansion. We are continuing to plan additional staffing, programs, events, and community support as the Child and Family Wellness Department grows alongside the needs of Tahltan children, youth, and families.

We look forward to continuing this important work and remain committed to building stronger, more consistent, and more meaningful supports for children, youth, families, and the wider Tahltan community.

The Tahltan Band Child and Family Services has advanced the feasibility study for the Telegraph Creek Cultural/Wellness Centre and the capital needs assessment for the program infrastructure needs under the CHRT 41 Funding provided by ISC. These two initiatives are ongoing and are set to be completed in 2026-2027 and the next step is to apply for design funding to make these projects a reality for the communities.



THE PEOPLES HAVEN & FAMILY WELLNESS

» Kim Rowe—Program Manager «

THE PEOPLES HAVEN (TAHLTAN BAND) DEASE LAKE

The Peoples Haven in Dease Lake was once a group home and safe place for people to come who needed help. It has stayed a safe space for people to come and receive services that the Tahltan Band provides in Dease Lake. The staff at Peoples Haven strive to be welcoming, empathetic, inclusive and share their knowledge to carry on culture and traditional practices.

The Haven flows through the following programs and services in Dease Lake for the Tahltan Band:

- Administration Assistant
- **Brenda George**
- brenda.george@tahtlan.ca

- Traditional Cultural and Artisan Instructor
- **Penny Louie**
- penny.louie@tahtlan.ca

- Cultural Family Support Worker and Artisan
- **Carmen Dennis**
- carmen.dennis@tahtlan.ca

- Community Youth Support and Language
- **Sonia Dennis**
- mom.toots@gmail.com

- The Ku'we Gahn Justice Program
- **Andrea Louie (Justice Worker)**
- andrea.louie@tahtlan.ca

- Ku'we'gahn Community-Based Victim Services
- **Jodi McKen**
- cbvs@tahtlan.ca

- Tahltan Sexual Assault Support Services
- **Jodi McKen**

- Tahltan Sexual Assault Services Cultural Support
- **Tamara Dennis**
- tamara.dennis@tahtlan.ca

- Community Health Care Aide
- **Sharon Bauer**
- hca@tahtlan.ca



• Elders Meal Program and Support

• **June Louie**
 • june.louie@tahltan.ca

• Family Wellness Program, Building Blocks, Program Manager, and Tahltan Band Community Designate

• **Kim Rowe**
 • kim.rowe@tahltan.ca | 250-641-5577

• Building Blocks Program (Ages 0–6)

• **Chasity Rozsas**
 • chasity.rozsas@tahltan.ca

• Keda Yaze Kime - Aboriginal Headstart

• **Hazel Quash (ECE)**
 • hazel.quash@tahltan.ca

• Keda Yaze Kime - Aboriginal Headstart

• **Saleea Inkster (ECEA)**

• Dease Lake Canada Post

• **Sadie Fast**

• Dease Lake School Breakfast and Lunch Program

• **Fred Moyer and Mikaela Nole**

• Tahltan Band Child and Family Wellness Department

• **Jenn Wunder (Social Program Director)**
 • jenn.wunder@tahltan.ca

• Youth, Child and Family Recreational Program

• **Rusheal Andre (Program Co-Ordinator)**

The Family Wellness program provides support services to all families in Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek, working alongside and with other community support services and the Ministry of Children and Families to provide our families with parenting support, advocacy, special needs support, training, applications, and providing support to children, youth and young adults who need support to navigate applying for services.

Our services include teaching cultural and traditional crafts, sewing, hide tanning, supporting traditional parenting practices and anyone who needs a safe space to come and talk with our Elders Penny Louie and Carmen Dennis, people are welcome to drop in on weekdays from 9-5 to come and check out their program. Everyone is welcome to reach out or stop by.

The Building Blocks Program provides support to all parents of children aged 0-6 and single parents in both Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake. This program provides families with fun family events, such as family dances, Easter hunts, crafting afternoons and other such activities, or just one on one teatime to have someone to talk to. We can support childcare for 1 hour so that parents can go and get the shopping done or just have some down time. This program and the Family Wellness program liase with the Child Development Center in Smithers who visit our communities 3 times a year.



2025-2026 Highlights

- Staff attended the 2025 VIFW along with 2 grade 12 students.
- 10 Youth attended the Giving Voices Conference in Vancouver Grade 9-12.
- Students from Kindergarten to Grade 7 attend the program with Penny and Carmen every Wednesday.
- Penny continues to teach traditional hide tanning to anyone who is interested.
- Penny and Carmen welcome anyone wanting to make regalia, learn how to make traditional clothing, hats and footwear.
- Sonia and Jodi started the community raising garden beds in partnership with School District 87, it was very successful.
- The Family Wellness Team-Carmen and Penny hosted a 2.5 day sewing symposium with participants from all 3 communities.
- Dease Lake Literacy camp-supported by our industry partners donations-hosted children throughout the summer with activities such a Big Canoe trip and training, various small events and ending with the Carvers from Cultural Expressions from Whitehorse coming into Dease Lake School to teach carving for students K-12.
- Some staff and community members attended the 2026 Women's N2N conference. This conference promotes self-empowerment, women's issues and challenges and provides a safe space to connect and learn.





EDUCATION & MEMBERSHIP

» Isabel Reid—Manager «

The Membership Program continues to support members with important status card and documentation services. To date, our population is at 2,242 band members.

While we do not currently have access to the new version of the Secure Certificate of Indian Status cards, members can access the application online through the Indigenous Services Canada website. Members can also download the SCIS Photo App from the App Store to submit their photo and application electronically.

Staff have completed Certified Integrity Document Officer training, which allows us to securely verify personal documents, handle confidential information, and support applications for Secure Certificates of Indian Status. This also means members no longer need to submit original identification or birth documents, as trained staff are able to certify documents.

Staff have also received an appointment as a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits. This allows them to administer oaths and affirmations, and to take affidavits and statutory declarations for Tahltan Band purposes only.

For upcoming elections, members are encouraged to update their mailing address by emailing Isabel Reid at Isabel.reid@tahltan.ca.

Through our Post-Secondary Education Student Support Program, we supported 29 continuing students, 16 new students, and 2 new graduates last year. This funding continues to help students pursue their education and reach important academic milestones.

Students are reminded that funding is budgeted for the full year, not by semester. Therefore, if students are planning to attend school during the summer months, this must be clearly specified on their application.

We have also updated the Post-Secondary application form to make it more accessible. The application is now available on the website and can be filled out electronically, making it easier for students to download, complete, and submit their information.

Each year, we also offer summer student opportunities through the Aboriginal Youth Initiative Program (AYIP) and the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP). These programs provide valuable work experience and support youth development.





SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

» Heather Hawkins—Manager «

I would like to share some of the work I have been involved in with the Tahltan Band over the past year through the Income Assistance, Assisted Living, and Family Services programs. I currently manage the Income Assistance and Assisted Living programs for the Tahltan Band.

The Income Assistance program is designed to support members residing on reserve who require temporary financial assistance while they are seeking meaningful employment. In addition to administering program support, I work closely with members to help them pursue employment opportunities, education, and personal development goals.

The Assisted Living and Homemaker Services programs provide funding and support for non-medical social services for adults requiring assistance with daily living. Services may include housekeeping, meal preparation, attendant care, adult day programs, meals-on-wheels support, psycho-social programming, respite care for caregivers, and non-medical transportation services. These programs are intended to support the dignity, independence, and well-being of physically

disabled, mentally disabled, and Elder community members so they may continue living within their home communities and remain connected to family and culture. It is important to note that these services do not include major home repairs.

I also work alongside Kim Rowe in delivering family services for both on-reserve and off-reserve Tahltan Band members. Together, we advocate for fair treatment, support, and services for Tahltan children and families while working to ensure our members receive culturally respectful care and equitable access to resources.

A significant milestone was achieved this past year as both the Tahltan Band and the Iskut Band achieved Indigenous Governing Body status in October and November 2025. This marks an important step forward in advancing Tahltan jurisdiction and self-determination in child and family services.

We are currently in Phase Two of the 92.1 Agreement process with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, with a signing ceremony anticipated in July 2026. This work represents meaningful progress toward strengthening Indigenous authority and decision-making for Tahltan children and families.

Throughout the past year, Income Assistance Family Support funds contributed toward important community initiatives, including support for the Telegraph Creek Youth Literacy Camp and the School District 87 Hot Lunch Program specifically serving Telegraph Creek students.

The Tahltan Band also provided direct support to on-reserve families through back-to-school clothing assistance and winter clothing support initiatives to help families prepare for the changing seasons and rising costs of living.

Youth development and cultural empowerment remained an important priority this year. We supported a group of eight Tahltan youth to attend the Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week. This opportunity promoted cultural empowerment, representation, inspiration, skill-building, networking, healing, reconciliation, and increased Indigenous youth visibility within the arts and fashion industries.

Efforts with the Community Care Team also remain ongoing to provide counselling and addiction treatment services for community members through a variety of support options. These include one-on-one counselling support, participation in the Bear Paw On-the-Land Healing Working Group, and the development of pilot projects focused on culturally grounded healing and wellness initiatives. This work continues to prioritize community wellness, reconnection to culture and land, and accessible pathways toward healing and recovery. Through the Community Care Team, a community pantry has been created to combat local food insecurity and provide immediate access to basic necessities with zero barriers or judgement for our community members who have specialized needs.

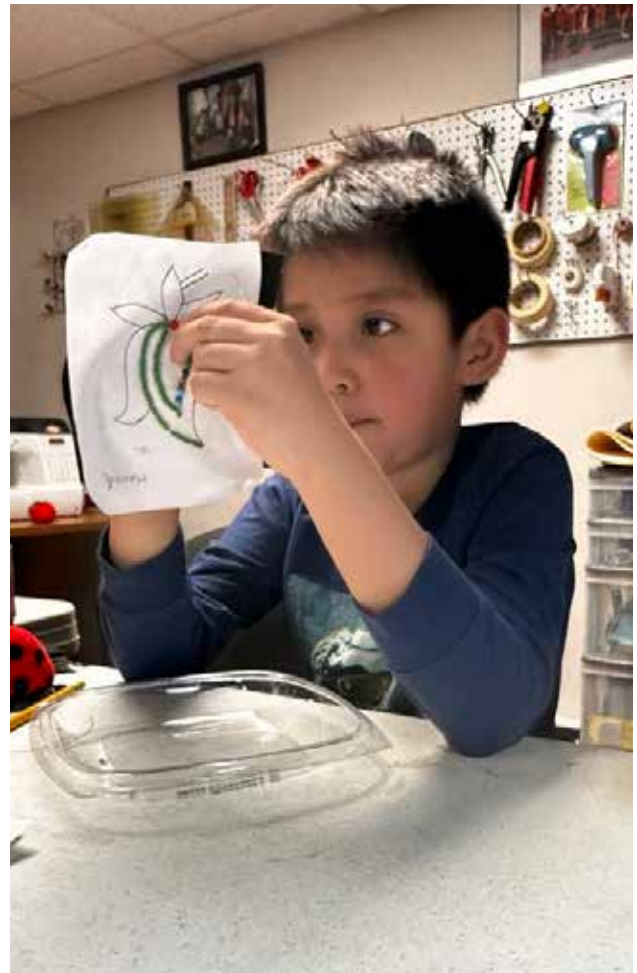
Since October 12, 2025, the Tahltan Band has also been a signatory to the Mental Health and Addictions Accord. The Mental Health and Addictions Accord is a shared advocacy framework and commitment among northern and central British Columbia partners to work collaboratively toward improving mental health and addictions outcomes through shared principles, coordinated actions, and community-driven approaches to wellness and recovery.

Emergency preparedness and community health services also advanced significantly this year. Through the BC Emergency Health Services Working Group, Fire smart Coordinator Jesse Bailey and I advocated for Telegraph Creek to receive its own ambulance. As a result of these efforts, an ambulance has now been donated by BC Emergency Health Services and is expected to be delivered to Dease Lake by the time of our Annual General Assembly in July 2026.

In addition, our Fire Dept Chief, Shane McGhee and Fire smart coordinator Jesse Bailey successfully achieved their Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification in January 2025.

Another EMR training course was held in December 2025, with licensing completed in January 2026. These achievements continue building local emergency response capacity and strengthening community safety for Telegraph Creek and surrounding areas.

I would like to thank all staff, leadership, partner organizations, and community members who continue to support this important work. Together, we continue to build stronger support for Tahltan families, youth, Elders, and future generations.





THREE SISTERS' SAFE HOUSE

» Geraldine Quock—Manager «

Three Sisters Safe House celebrates 35 years of providing and developing culturally appropriate services for the community. Over the years, our work has created meaningful impact by supporting personal development, healing, and positive changes in the lives of many community members.

Over the years, the scope of services has evolved to recognize the urgent need for trauma-informed support. The number of crisis intervention supports has increased significantly, and both adolescents and adults have had more opportunities to learn about the immediate intervention services available to them. Aftercare support has also made a meaningful difference in the community, as individuals who choose intervention often inspire others to seek support for their own mental health and healing.

In response to numerous requests, we also created a six-week pilot project to support and prepare individuals for enrolment in a treatment centre or trauma program. This pilot project is rooted in Tahltan culture and values, allowing individuals to realign themselves, embrace their identity, and reconnect with culture. In a society that often fails to recognize the value of Indigenous independence, reclaiming and reviving cultural practices remains an important part of well-being.

We are also encouraging greater collaboration between programs and expanding opportunities for on-the-land healing support. These supports provide a meaningful way for individuals to step away from daily stressors, reconnect with the land, and reflect on survival, safety, and healing.

Through this work, the concept of safety can be understood in relation to all aspects of life. Our community has the ability to decide how vulnerable members are seen, supported, and cared for based on their needs. This approach is grounded in compassion, with no prejudice, conditions, or expectations - only possibilities when people are given the opportunity to heal.

One of the ongoing challenges in providing culturally appropriate services is navigating foreign policies and systems that continue to govern Indigenous communities. Despite these challenges, Three Sisters Haven remains committed to supporting healing, strengthening culture, and creating safer pathways for community members.



KĒHKE

» **Kehke Wellness** «
Adam Pratt—(MST) Interim Team Lead

Kēhke is a Tahltan wellness resource that provides compassionate, high quality, discreet mental health services to the Tahltan Nation and community members, wherever you are.

Despite staffing limitations and the realities of delivering care in remote northern communities, Kēhke/MST has remained committed to supporting Tahltan members through relationship-based, culturally informed, and trauma-aware approaches.

This year, we saw the departure of former Team Lead Naomi Davies for personal reasons. Naomi contributed greatly to the development and stability of the program during her time with Kēhke/MST and continues to support Tahltan community members informally through her ongoing presence and relationships in Terrace. In addition, the team experienced the medical leave of our new clinician, further impacting service capacity during an already difficult period for recruitment and retention.

Like many northern and remote programs across British Columbia, the Kēhke/MST continues to face challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified, regulated professionals who not only possess strong clinical competency, but who also understand the realities of working in the North and can provide culturally safe, relationship-centered care within Tahltan communities. In recent years, there has also been a noticeable shift within the mental health field toward clinicians offering primarily virtual services due to the significant costs associated with travel, extended time away from home, and the broader post-COVID transition toward digital care models. While virtual care has an important role, it does not fully replace the value of in-person relationship building, community presence, cultural engagement, and crisis responsiveness that are often essential in remote Indigenous communities.

Despite these challenges, our services have continued with a core team member Adam Pratt currently serving as Acting Team Lead and sole clinician for Kēhke/MST while recruitment and onboarding efforts remain underway. During this time, Kēhke/MST has maintained wellness support, advocacy, referrals, harm reduction services, and coordination with partner agencies and healthcare providers when needed.

A major achievement this year was that we launched the development and implementation planning for a land-based recovery pilot project within Tahltan Territory. Kēhke/MST staff played a key role in helping us coordinate and support this initiative alongside community leadership, staff, and knowledge holders. Through this pilot project, we are taking an important step toward culturally relevant recovery programming that is approximately 90% Tahltan-led, operated, and attended. The project focuses on connection to land and culture, personal healing, peer support, and long-term wellness.

Looking ahead, the Kēhke/MST remains focused on stabilizing staffing capacity, strengthening partnerships, and continuing to build sustainable, culturally grounded wellness programming for Tahltan members as it restructures its services to reflect a changing landscape in healthcare.



HEALTH

» Trena Marion—Interim Director «

BUILDING WELLNESS, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Over the past year, Tahltan Health has continued to strengthen community wellness through a wide range of cultural, recreational, educational, and health-focused initiatives that brought community members together across all generations.

Community events and programs included the Health Fair with a focus on diabetes awareness and prevention, Fish Camp, Literacy Camp, Music Fest, Mother's Day Walk, Meals on Wheels, the Annual Christmas Party, Halloween celebrations, Easter activities, Santa at the School, and a variety of seasonal craft and cultural workshops. The popular 30 Mile Camp provided opportunities for community members to learn and participate in traditional hunting practices while strengthening connections to Tahltan culture and the land.

A major highlight of the year was the Winter Classic Hockey Tournament, which united the three Tahltan communities of Telegraph Creek, Iskut, and Dease Lake. The event featured both youth and adult teams competing together at the Telegraph Creek arena, creating lasting memories and strengthening relationships across communities. For many local youth, it was their first experience on skates, making the tournament an especially meaningful milestone.

HONOURING CHRISTINE BALL

The Health Department recognizes the retirement of long-time Health Director Christine Ball, who retired in January after many years of dedicated service.

Throughout her career, Christine helped guide and strengthen health programs, wellness services, and community supports that have positively impacted generations of Tahltan members. Her leadership, compassion, and commitment to community wellness have been felt across Telegraph Creek, Dease Lake, and beyond.

Christine's contributions were especially meaningful during times of challenge and change, including supporting community wellness and health services through the aftermath of the 2018 Telegraph Creek wildfire and recovery period. Her steady leadership helped ensure community members continued to access support, care, and connection when it was needed most.

As she begins her retirement, we extend our sincere gratitude for her years of service and dedication. Christine leaves behind a legacy of care, resilience, and commitment to the health and well-being of the Tahltan Nation.

We wish her happiness, good health, and all the best in this next chapter.





JUSTICE

» Melva Quock-Beaulieu— Coordinator «

The Ku'we'gahn Department continued to strengthen community-based justice, healing, and wellness initiatives throughout 2025–2026 through culturally grounded approaches to restorative justice and community safety. The program remains committed to integrating Tahltan values, traditions, and land-based healing into all aspects of service delivery.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The department provided ongoing restorative justice services, including pre-charge and post-charge diversion, probation support, peacemaking circles, mediation, and culturally grounded healing plans. Staff worked closely with community members, Elders, families, and justice system partners to support fair, meaningful, and culturally appropriate outcomes for Tahltan citizens. Staff attended the Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) Conference in Terrace, BC, Restoring Justice for Youth, supporting learning and collaboration across Indigenous justice networks.

TWIN CREEK HEALING PROJECT

The Twin Creek land-based healing camp continued development and use, supporting reconnection to Tahltan culture through fishing, hunting, berry picking, medicine gathering, and cultural teachings. Community moose hunts supported Elders and families in need. Approximately 50 km of trail upgrades were completed using small equipment, with ongoing expansion toward the Shesley area. A four-bridge restoration project was completed, improving access and safety. The camp continues to support healing and wellness.

VICTIM SERVICES & ADVOCACY

The department provided victim services across Telegraph Creek, Dease Lake, Iskut, and surrounding areas, including court support, legal aid assistance, crisis response, and referrals to support services.

YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Youth and families were supported through prevention programming, restorative circles, and culturally grounded conflict resolution. Community members also attended the International Alcoholics Anonymous Convention in Vancouver, supporting recovery, wellness, and peer connection.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECREATION

The Tahltan Winter Classic Hockey event brought together community members, featuring special guests Jordan Tootoo and Brian Trottier. A Community Appreciation Night recognized volunteers and Elders. National Addictions Awareness Week included education and healing activities. A Community Sober Event supported wellness and connection in a substance-free environment.

CAPACITY BUILDING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Staff participated in governance training and the Regional Justice Forum, strengthening program delivery, accountability, and collaboration with justice partners.

LOOKING AHEAD

The department will continue expanding culturally grounded justice initiatives, increasing access to healing programs, and strengthening partnerships that support community wellness and self-determination.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

» Edward Van Mierlo—Manager «

TAHLTAN NATION TOURISM STRATEGY – A NATION-WIDE EFFORT TO BUILD TOURISM OUR WAY

We are a working group made up of representatives from Iskut Band, Tahltan Band and the Tahltan Central Government (Tahltan Hospitality) who have come together to develop our Nation's first tourism strategy. Together, we represent Iskut, Dease Lake, and Telegraph Creek, bringing both Band's leadership, TCG leadership, and community-based operators to the table. This effort is being co-led collaboratively by all partners involved.

Over the past year, our communities identified tourism as an opportunity to diversify our economy beyond mining, share our stories with visitors on our own terms, and create meaningful jobs closer to home. With support from Newmont, Indigenous Tourism BC, and Destination BC, we secured \$60,000 to develop a formal tourism strategy, which was endorsed by both Band Councils in February 2026.

We are working together because our Territory is one shared Territory. A tourism strategy developed by a single community alone would not fully reflect or serve the Nation as a whole, nor would it create lasting success. That is why we are moving forward as a united team, with equal voices from all three communities and all three governments. A strategy built by and for our communities will be stronger, more meaningful, and more sustainable than one developed separately.

Here are our detailed plans and the next steps we will take to help bring that goal to life.

- Round 1 Community Engagements took place from April 29 to May 1, 2026, in Telegraph Creek, Dease Lake, and Iskut. We held sessions that included lunch with Elders and dinner with the broader community, creating space for people to share their thoughts, priorities, and hopes for tourism within

Tahltan territory. We also hosted a virtual session on May 8 to engage Tahltan members living away from Territory.

We brought a shared presentation, *Reclaiming Tahltan Identity Through Tourism*, to each session. The conversations were direct and meaningful, focusing on what tourism could look like when developed on our terms, as well as what we do not want it to become.

Strong alignment emerged across all three communities. Key priorities included visitor information hubs in each community, a Nation-wide artisan economy, a shared booking and insurance platform for operators, and Elder-led guidance to help protect sacred sites within tourism product development. Place-name storytelling and the revival of cultural camps also emerged as common priorities in every community.

Our next steps include a second round of community engagement, followed by a request for proposals to bring a consultant on board. Our goal is to complete an investment-ready tourism strategy by the end of 2026.

- Strong agreement landed across all three communities: visitor information hubs in each community, a Nation-wide artisan economy, a shared booking-and-insurance platform for operators, and an elder-led desire to protect sacred sites in any product design. Place-name storytelling and cultural-camp revival came up everywhere.
- Strategy development (2026): we will use the funding we have secured, along with what we heard from our communities, to guide the development of the strategy.
- Tahltan Nation Tourism Strategy (end of 2026) with a 5-year plan (2026–2031) will be built based on community input.



HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

We invite you to join our upcoming sessions and share what you want tourism in our Territory to look like, as well as what you do not want it to become. Your voice is important in shaping a tourism strategy that reflects our communities, our values, and our territory.

You can also reach out to any of us directly:

- Iskut Band Manager
• **Maggie Dennis**
• maggiedennis@iskut.org

- Iskut Band Economic Development Officer
• **Amanda Dennis**
• amandadennis@iskut.org

- Iskut Band Development Corp
• **Joe Lloyd Walters**
• joelloydwalters@iskut.org

- Tahltan Band, Interim CAO
• **Shana Dennis**
• shana.dennis@tahltan.ca

- Tahltan Band Development Corp
• **Eddy Van Mierlo**
• ec.dev@tahltan.ca

- Riversong, Telegraph Creek
• **Corrina Reimer**
• riversongmanager@tahltan.ca

- Director, Tahltan Hospitality
• **Alex Buri**
• alex.buri@tedsdev.ca



From Plan to Action: Clean Energy in Telegraph Creek

The Tahltan Band continues to make strong progress toward a cleaner, more reliable energy future for Telegraph Creek. One recent milestone we are proud to re-share is the completion and Council adoption of the Telegraph Creek Community Energy Plan (CEP).

The CEP provides a clear roadmap to reduce reliance on diesel power from BC Hydro, lower long term energy costs for homes and Band operations, improve overall energy reliability in Telegraph Creek, and advance clean energy solutions that reflect community priorities and Tahltan values.

Our Clean Energy team is now turning our efforts from planning to action. Here are a few key highlights!

SOLAR PILOT PROJECT - NEARING COMPLETION

A key outcome of the CEP is the advancement of solar and battery energy systems as a near-term opportunity. The Solar Pilot Project is now in its final stages and is expected to be fully operational by late June/early July. The goal of this pilot project is to demonstrate solar energy performance in local conditions, reduce diesel use, and build local experience with clean energy systems.

PLANNING FOR A LARGER SOLAR PROJECT

Building on the success of the pilot project, a solar farm feasibility study is now underway to explore the potential for expanding solar energy in Telegraph Creek. This work is focused on assessing how solar generation and battery storage technologies could be scaled up to meet a larger share of the community's energy needs, while also evaluating the overall costs and benefits to Tahltan Band Council from both financial and environmental perspectives. If the project is found to be viable, it has the potential to supply approximately 40% of Telegraph Creek's total electricity needs with clean, renewable energy, significantly reducing reliance on diesel generation.

EXPLORING HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL

The Clean Energy team is also studying water flows in Telegraph Creek to better understand the hydropower potential of the watershed and ability to further reduce the need for diesel generated power. This work will help determine the potential generation capacity of the watershed, potential location for infrastructure, and allow for future study on how hydropower could complement solar energy.

SUPPORTING HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

In addition to community scale projects, Tahltan Band Council will soon advance efforts to help reduce household energy use and costs. Efforts will soon be initiated to identify ways to improve energy efficiency in homes, reducing heating and electricity costs for members, and support healthier, more comfortable living conditions.





Looking Ahead

These initiatives are part of a coordinated effort, building from the recently completed CEP, to reduce diesel dependence and strengthen long-term energy independence in Telegraph Creek. Through this work, we aim to improve energy security, lower environmental impacts, reflect our stewardship of the Territory, and support sustainable community growth. We will continue to share updates as this important work moves forward.



HOUSING

» Margaret Asp—Manager «

Over the past year, important progress has been made in addressing housing maintenance, mold remediation, and renovation needs across community housing units. This work reflects our continued commitment to improving safe, healthy, and comfortable living conditions for members.

Last year, 10 mold-affected housing units were completed. This work helped address urgent health and safety concerns while supporting the long-term maintenance of community homes. Building on that progress, we are now working on 10 additional units this year between Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek. These renovations will continue to focus on mold remediation, general repairs, energy-efficiency improvements, and upgrades to essential living areas.

Our renovation plan has identified detailed issues in each unit, including concerns related to windows, doors, kitchens, bathrooms, basements, flooring, plumbing, ventilation, drainage, and mold-affected areas. The plan also highlights the need for energy-efficiency improvements, better ventilation, replacement of damaged materials, and repairs to areas affected by water damage.

In Telegraph Creek, the Elders Complex roof was completed last summer. We are now moving forward with the next phase of work, which includes renovating the units. This is an important step in ensuring that Elders have safer, more comfortable, and better-maintained homes.

To strengthen housing maintenance capacity in Dease Lake, Terry Ball has been hired to support Housing Maintenance and Operations for IR #9. This role will help improve response times, support ongoing repairs, and ensure that maintenance needs are addressed more consistently.

Overall, the housing work completed last year and planned for this year represents meaningful progress in responding to community housing needs. Continued investment in mold remediation, renovations, preventative maintenance, and local maintenance capacity will help protect community housing assets and improve the well-being of members.





EMERGENCY PROGRAM

» Shane McGhee—Coordinator «

Since beginning my role as Emergency Program Coordinator (EPC) in 2022, I have worked to strengthen emergency preparedness, wildfire response capacity, and community resilience within Telegraph Creek and throughout our region. Drawing on my background with BC Wildfire Service, my vision has been to build a capable local response team that can effectively respond to emergencies within our communities while also supporting neighboring communities when needed.

Over the past year, significant progress has been made in training, wildfire risk reduction, emergency response, and securing long-term funding to support these efforts.

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

In January 2025, the Tahltan Band entered into a Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) agreement with the Ministry of Forests valued at \$140,000. This funding supports fuel modification activities, including tree thinning and pile burning in priority areas such as Six Mile Hill near Telegraph Creek. Working alongside Kris Garneau and community partners, these projects help reduce wildfire risks and improve community safety.

Additional wildfire preparedness initiatives included the installation of a forest fire danger rating sign at the Telegraph Creek Airport in June 2025, increasing public awareness of wildfire conditions and risks throughout the fire season.

Building on these efforts, funding applications were successfully secured through the Wildland Urban Interface Program, resulting in \$71,037 in approved funding for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. In May 2026, an additional On-Reserve Wildfire Resiliency Program agreement was signed with FNESS, securing \$150,000 to further strengthen community wildfire preparedness and mitigation activities.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

A major focus of the program continues to be developing local emergency response capacity through training and certification opportunities.

During 2025 and 2026, community members completed numerous emergency management and wildfire-related training programs, including:

- Advanced First Aid (Level 3) certification, completed by Roxanne Quock, Lawrence Dolha, Jesse Bailey, Chance Glover, Ajit Bob, Silina Day, Simon Eaton-McGhee, and myself.
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification completed in Dease Lake by Simon Eaton-McGhee and myself.
- S100/S185 Wildfire Suppression Training delivered in Telegraph Creek and Iskut.
- Structural Protection Unit (SPU) training through FNESS, completed in partnership with the Iskut Fire Department.
- Type 2 Wildfire Crew Training completed in March 2026 by Simon Eaton-McGhee, Lawrence Dolha, and Jesse Bailey.

Community members also represented Telegraph Creek at the FNESS 40th Anniversary Competition held in Penticton, where Sheila Davidson, Natasha Callbreath, Teri Lynn, Simon Eaton-McGhee, Jesse Bailey, and myself participated and showcased our growing emergency response skills.

STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS FIRE RESPONSE CAPACITY

One of the most significant milestones achieved this year was the signing of the Indigenous Initial Attack (IIA) Agreement in May 2026 for the Tahltan WolfPack Wildland Fire Crew. This agreement formally recognizes and supports the capacity of Indigenous firefighters to respond rapidly to wildfire incidents within Tahltan Territory and surrounding areas.

The establishment and continued development of the WolfPack Crew represent an important step toward greater local emergency response capacity, Indigenous leadership in wildfire management, and improved protection for our communities.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND WILDFIRE OPERATIONS

Throughout 2025 and 2026, local response teams worked alongside community partners to address a number of wildfire and emergency incidents.

Notable responses included:

- Grass fire suppression at the old dump site in Telegraph Creek.
- Joint grass burning operations in Iskut involving the WolfPack Crew, Smokewalkers, BC Wildfire Service crews, and the Iskut Fire Department.
- Prescribed burning operations in Lower Post with the Smokewalkers.
- Response to the Six Mile Fish Camp wildfire in July 2025.
- Response to the Glenora wildfire in August 2025.
- Wildfire suppression efforts along Iron Road in April 2026, led by the WolfPack Crew and BC Wildfire Service.
- Multiple grass fire responses in and around Telegraph Creek during the spring of 2026.
- Responses to residential structure fires on reserve, including incidents in May 2026.

These responses demonstrated the value of local training, preparedness, and partnerships in protecting community members and infrastructure.

Looking Ahead

The progress made over the past year reflects the commitment of our firefighters, emergency responders, volunteers, partner agencies, and community members. Continued investment in training, equipment, wildfire mitigation, and emergency planning will ensure that Telegraph Creek remains prepared for future emergencies.

As Emergency Program Coordinator, I remain committed to building a strong, professional response team capable of protecting our communities, supporting neighboring Nations, and creating a safer future for generations to come.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

» Verna Vance —Manager «

In 2025, community members contributed to a CBC documentary project highlighting Tahltn culture, history, and the longstanding importance of obsidian harvesting at Ice Mountain. Cultural programming also included a community regalia-making workshop, where participants shared sewing skills, stories, and traditional knowledge while showcasing the beauty of Tahltn regalia. In addition, a traditional medicine harvest on Level Mountain provided caribou leaves (“Hodzih Klawna”) that were dried and prepared to help ensure Elders had access to traditional medicine throughout the winter months.

In September 2025, community members gathered for a regalia-making workshop led by Trena Martin and Loretta Quock, creating opportunities to share traditional sewing skills, stories, and cultural knowledge across generations. Participants also conducted a traditional medicine harvest of caribou leaves (“Hodzih Klawnah”), collecting and drying enough medicine to support Elders through the winter cold and flu season. These activities strengthened community connections while helping preserve and pass on important Tahltn cultural practices.

ROAD TO THE TAHLTN WINTER CLASSIC BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

From February 13, 14, and 16, the Tahltn Band welcomed community members to the TC Rec Centre for the Road to the Tahltn Winter Classic: a three-day series filled with sport, connection, and culture.

The series began on February 13 with shared meals and a feature presentation from Jordin Tootoo. On February 14, the excitement continued with a Canada vs. France watch party, additional community meals, a book signing with Tootoo, and a community skate that brought kids and families onto the ice.

The final day featured a presentation from Bryan Trottier, a community dinner, and a special presentation by Tahltn Knowledge Keepers highlighting the launch of E Mes dzi – The Owl. As the first-ever Tahltn Tail book written by a Tahltn author, the launch marked a meaningful milestone celebrating Tahltn storytelling, language, and authorship.





ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPPORT: RECOVERY OF ANCESTRAL REMAINS, 2026

In April 2026, ancestral skeletal remains were found on Telegraph Creek Road, approximately 200 metres from where ancestral remains had been found in 2022 and 2023. Once the RCMP and the BC Coroner's Office had inspected the remains and determined that they were ancient, a crew from Telegraph Creek and Cordillera Archaeology Inc. was dispatched to recover and rebury the ancestor.

Many people were involved in the 2026 efforts, including:

- Verna Vance
- Kenzie Dennis
- Dennis Quock
- Rudy Day
- Brian Quock
- Fabian Vance
- Keith Brown
- Mikey Day
- Aaron Lowi
- Khris Day
- Rocky Jackson
- Scotty Hawkins Sr.
- Mariko Waite
- Duncan McLaren

The ancestral remains were traced back to a road cut on Tahltan IR1, east of the Tahltan River. Most of the skeletal remains were found to be in place, but at risk of slumping. For this reason, it was decided to carefully excavate the grave and rebury the skeletal remains in the Tahltan Village cemetery.

After removing sediments and large cobbles overlying the burial, careful excavation revealed the remains of an older female ancestor buried on her side in a semi-flexed, fetal position. The head of this individual was oriented toward the confluence of the Tahltan and Stikine Rivers. All sediment associated with the burial was carefully screened through 3 mm mesh. Some small skeletal elements were recovered in this manner; however, no grave goods or burial belongings were found. Almost all expected skeletal elements were recovered, except for the lower legs and feet of the individual, which may have decomposed or slumped from the road cut unnoticed at an earlier time.

At the behest of Chief and Council, a thorough survey of the entire road cut was conducted to determine whether the spring thaw had revealed any other ancestral remains. This resulted in the identification of another slumping grave approximately 200 metres away from the first and situated directly adjacent to the graves excavated in 2022.

The same approach was undertaken to recover the ancestral

skeletal remains from the second burial as from the first. Once again, a cobble, cairn-like formation was found overlying the remains. Through careful excavation, the ancestor was found to be buried in a tightly flexed fetal position, with the head oriented toward the confluence. Based on the presence of wisdom teeth (third molars), these remains were also determined to be those of an adult individual and, based on pelvic shape, likely female. As with the first burial, no belongings were found in association with the burial, despite the field crew's fine-mesh screening of all the sediments.

Two separate reburial ceremonies were conducted at the Tahltan Village cemetery. As the clan affiliation of the ancestral remains could not be determined, both Ch'ioyone (wolf) and Tsesk'iya (crow) clan representatives helped dig the graves and rebury the remains. It is hoped that, in this location, they may now rest after having had their original place of burial so disturbed.

Some analysis will be conducted on samples recovered during the 2026 operations. Currently, it is unknown when these ancestors were initially buried. The remains recovered in 2022 and 2023 indicate that the graveyard was used in the 1800s, and it is possible that the ancestors recovered in 2026 are from the same period. Two radiocarbon date samples have been submitted for analysis. Isotopic analysis will be undertaken at the same time to evaluate the percentage of marine protein, in this case likely derived from salmon, in both individuals' diets. We are currently pursuing the possibility of having ancient DNA analysis conducted to help determine genetic relationships. However, very few labs are currently set up to conduct this type of analysis on ancient ancestral samples, as opposed to modern ones, and results often take several years to produce.

What is clear from the results of the 2026 work is that there appear to be two separate cemeteries intersected by the cut banks of the Telegraph Creek Road on the east side of the Tahltan River. They are situated 200 metres apart and lie on different landforms, one being the upper graveyard and the other the lower graveyard. Geographically, both graveyards are on Tahltan IR1. An archaeological site survey in the 1970s recorded and mapped a fallen burial fence in the upper graveyard area.

Since 2022, the remains of a total of six ancestral burials have been recovered from the slumping road cuts: five from the upper graveyard and one from the lower graveyard. Based on this, it is likely that more graves will slump in the future, especially in spring when freeze-thaw cycles can destabilize the bank. Ongoing road maintenance may also be exacerbating the situation. Currently, TBC, TCG, and the BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit are in discussions to investigate protection measures for the graveyards.

At this point, four possible approaches to mitigating this situation have been discussed:

- Continue as usual and conduct emergency recovery of ancestral remains as they slump from the road cut. This is clearly not the best solution, although given that no other options have been implemented since the 2022 and 2023 recoveries, this approach may continue.
- Create an engineering solution, such as a retaining wall or gabion structure, to keep the ancient cemeteries in place. While this approach is perhaps the most desirable, the road cut is extremely high and steep in some places, which will create challenges for engineering an effective solution.
- Reroute the Telegraph Creek Road so that it no longer cuts through the cemetery. While this solution would remove traffic and road maintenance from the area, the road cuts would still be steep and prone to freeze-thaw events or heavy-rain erosion, and burials may continue to slump.
- Completely excavate both cemeteries by hand in a concerted effort to recover as many remains as possible and relocate them to a different cemetery. Overall, this type of approach may have serious ethical implications and may not have wide community support.

It is possible that there may be other solutions not covered here. This is a situation that needs to be addressed, but it will be challenging to implement whatever approach is ultimately agreed upon.



OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

» Shayne Andres—Manager «

The Operations and Maintenance Department continues to provide essential day-to-day services that support the safety, functionality, and overall well-being of the community. Our team remains committed to maintaining infrastructure, assisting community operations, and responding to ongoing maintenance needs in a timely and professional manner.

As part of our daily operations, we coordinate garbage and recycling disposal to help ensure our community remains clean and environmentally responsible. We continue to prioritize regular waste management services to support both residential homes and community facilities.

Preventative maintenance and repairs on buildings, heavy equipment, and operational tools are also carried out on an ongoing basis to reduce downtime and extend the life of community assets. Seasonal tire changeovers and vehicle support services are completed as required to ensure community vehicles and equipment remain safe and operational throughout changing weather conditions.

During the winter season, septic freeze-ups and related infrastructure issues continue to present operational challenges. Our staff regularly respond to emergency calls and maintenance concerns to help minimize disruptions to homes and facilities. We

continue to monitor and maintain septic systems as an important focus area for the department.

Our department also supports the community store by assisting with freight unloading and operational needs every Tuesday. Through this ongoing support, we help ensure supplies are received efficiently and distributed in a timely manner for community members.

Water system management continues to be a major responsibility of the department. Daily monitoring, maintenance, and operational oversight are performed to ensure the community has access to safe and reliable water services. Staff remain dedicated to maintaining system performance and responding quickly to any issues that arise.

Looking ahead, we are planning several important infrastructure and community improvement projects for the future. These include the development of a new water system and treatment facility, along with the construction of a new water storage tank to improve long-term reliability and capacity for the community.

We are also exploring additional future plans, including ditching improvements throughout the community to help prevent poor road conditions, erosion, and washouts during seasonal weather events. Our department is also looking into the development of a local gravel pit for Telegraph Creek to support road maintenance and future infrastructure projects more efficiently.

Further upgrades are planned for the recreation center and band office to improve functionality, safety, and community use. In addition, we continue to prioritize plans for a new fire hall and updated fire truck to strengthen emergency response capabilities and improve public safety services within the community.

Our Operations and Maintenance Department appreciates the continued support of community members. We remain committed to providing dependable services while working toward long-term improvements that benefit everyone.



FINANCE

» Tracy—Manager «

Over the past years, our Finance Department has experienced several changes in staffing, law, policy, planning frameworks, and financial services. Through these changes, we are proud of our team's dedication and continued efforts to overcome challenges, build transparent and effective policies, and strengthen administration practices that help allocate resources according to community priorities. This work reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening governance, accountability, and modern financial management practices for the benefit of the community.

RECOGNIZING OUR TEAM: SHERRY WOODS

The Tahltan Band would like to recognize the dedication and longstanding service of Sherry Woods, the Band's Bookkeeper and Payables Officer. Known for her strong work ethic and professionalism, Sherry is often the first employee to arrive at the office each day and has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting the Band's financial operations and administration.

Over the years, Sherry has played an important role in ensuring the Band's financial processes continue to operate smoothly and responsibly. Through her work managing accounts payable and financial processing, she has helped to ensure payments are carefully reviewed, processed accurately, and completed on time. Her attention to detail, reliability, and commitment to accountability have made her a valued and respected member of the Tahltan Band administration team.

FINANCIAL CONTROLS & TRANSPARENCY POLICY

On November 24, 2025, Tahltan Band Council formally enacted the Financial Controls & Transparency Policy as part of its commitment to strengthening governance, accountability, and modern financial management practices. The policy establishes enhanced standards related to financial reporting, whistleblower protections, records management, privacy safeguards, information technology controls, and member access to financial information, including annual reports and audited financial statements through the Tahltan Band website.

The policy also strengthens communication and engagement with Band Members on financial matters, including multi-year financial planning, and strategic planning initiatives. Additional sections establish records retention standards, information management controls, and cybersecurity measures intended to support stronger oversight, transparency, and accountability across Tahltan Band administration.

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION LAW IMPLEMENTATION & REVIEW

On March 26, 2026, the First Nations Financial Management Board completed an Agreed-Upon Procedures review related to the implementation of the Tahltan Financial Administration Law in support of eligibility requirements for the New Fiscal Relationship Grant program. The review assessed key financial administration and governance provisions under Tahltan's Financial Administration Law and represents another important milestone in advancing Tahltan Band's financial governance systems, accountability measures, and long-term financial readiness. The review also reflects Tahltan Band's ongoing efforts to modernize financial administration practices and maintain strong governance standards.

MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

With the support of Chief and Council, we have continued advancing the development of a strategic plan intended to strengthen long-term planning, governance, and organizational priorities across the Nation. At the core of these strategic planning efforts is the development of a five-year capital planning framework designed to support a more coordinated and transparent approach to infrastructure planning, project oversight, funding allocations, and future community investments.

The framework will help guide the identification and prioritization of major capital initiatives based on community needs, strategic planning objectives, project readiness, and available funding allocations. It is also intended to align with the Tahltan Band's Procurement and Purchasing Policy standards by supporting increased community membership engagement on major capital project decisions and long-term resource allocation priorities. As the framework continues to develop, we hope that future capital planning priorities and proposed resource allocations are expected to be presented to the community to support transparency, engagement, and member feedback on major projects and infrastructure investments.

ACCESS TO ENHANCED FINANCIAL SERVICES THROUGH FMB

In support of Tahltan Band's ongoing Financial Administration Law implementation efforts, we secured additional financial management capacity and technical support through a Financial Management System Support Services Agreement with the First Nations Financial Management Board, effective November 24, 2025.

Through this partnership, Tahltan Band gained access to enhanced financial management resources at no cost to the Band, including additional support for budgeting, multi-year financial planning, quarterly financial reporting, records management, staff training, and financial management capacity development. This agreement demonstrates our continued progress toward strengthening governance practices and building long-term financial management capacity within Tahltan Band administration.

Key Achievements 2025 / 2026

Advanced IR 13 from planning to implementation through site preparation

Supported the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project IBA which received **77.4% support**

Chief Rocky Jackson played a leadership role in **the first-ever Declaration Act Section 7 decision-making agreement**, advancing Indigenous consent and shared decision-making.

Advanced Addition-to-Reserve (ATR) planning to **expand reserve lands and support future growth** in Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake

Completed the BEAR Assessment to **strengthen financial systems and capacity**

Implemented the **Financial Administration Law review process**

Enacted a new **Financial Controls and Transparency Policy**

Established the **Child and Family Wellness Department**

Achieved **Indigenous Governing Body** status

Advanced negotiations toward a **Section 92.1 Agreement**

Expanded **youth programming & emergency medical training**

Launched **Land-based healing and Wellness Initiatives**

Joined the **Mental Health and Addictions Accord**

Completed major housing remediation, finishing **10 units**
and starting work on **10 additional homes**

Upgraded the **Elders Complex**

Strengthened wildfire preparedness and response with
\$360,000+ in funding and expanded training

Signed the Indigenous Initial Attack Agreement recognizing the
Tahltan WolfPack Wildland Fire Crew for wildfire response

Invested in **Tahltan culture, language, and heritage** through workshops,
cultural camps, storytelling, and site and ancestor preservation



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

TAHLTAN WINTER CLASSIC 2026

The Tahltan Winter Classic 2026 took place on February 28th in Telegraph Creek, bringing together players, families, and community members for an exciting day of hockey, celebration, and community spirit.

Teams from across Tahltan Nation competed in both the Adult and Youth divisions, showcasing strong competition, great sportsmanship, and energy on and off the ice. Throughout the tournament, spectators filled the rink with support as teams battled for the Tahltan Cup and cash prizes.

The Adult Division final brought together the Sawtooth Predators and Klabona Dene for an exciting championship matchup. With the Tahltan Cup and the grand prize on the line, Klabona Dene delivered a strong performance and claimed the Adult Division title with a 17–7 victory, taking home the \$5,000 prize.

The Youth Division also showcased impressive talent from the region's young players. The opening game featured the Dease Lake Mini Blues competing against the Telegraph Creek Warriors. After an energetic game, the Mini Blues advanced to the final with a 14–5 win.

They then faced the defending champions, the Klabona Junior Icons, in the Youth Division championship game. The final proved to be a close and exciting contest, with both teams pushing hard until the end. In the end, the Klabona Junior Icons secured the Youth Division title with an 11–9 victory, earning the \$3,000 prize.

Beyond the competition on the ice, the tournament created a meaningful space for community members to gather, celebrate, and enjoy the spirit of the game together. Congratulations to all the teams who competed and helped make the event such a success.

Thank you to all the players, volunteers, organizers, families, and supporters who contributed to making the Tahltan Winter Classic 2026 a memorable event. We also extend our sincere gratitude to photographer Jozef Bienkowski for capturing the moments and energy of the tournament.

We look forward to more opportunities to come together and celebrate sports, community, and Tahltan spirit in the future.

Thank you, Jozef Bienkowski-Gibbs, for capturing these wonderful community moments.







2025 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

Congratulations to all 2025 Community Recognition Awards winners! Thank you to each and everyone of you for your meaningful contributions to our beloved community.

Language Revitalization
Kitty Brown, Pauline Hawkins

New Hunters Award
Gibson Quash, Kaleb Vance

Tahltan Knowledge Keeper
Flora Reid, Harrison Quock, Nancy McGhee

Cook of the Year
Gail Quock, Linda Day

Entrepreneur
Glenda Reid, Janet Vance

Community Hero
Gilbert Tashoots Sr.

Community Volunteer
Darla Creyke

Lifetime Achievement Award
Rocky Jackson, Yvonne Tashoots

Good Neighbour
Shiela Quash, Ashtyn Quock



Emerging Young Leader Award
Dominick Quash

Best Entertainer
Albert Quock, Wilfred Hawkins

Emerging Artist Award
Wenda Day, Allysha Fryer-Thomas, Pietro Grey Jr.

Tahltan Artist Award
Lyle Quock Jr.

Community Safety Award
Shane McGhee, Tahltan Trailblazer Francis Quock, Marylee Quock, Henry Hawkins

Newly Sober Acknowledgements
Francis Quock, Monica Johnson, Dicky Reid, Henry Hawkins, Keisha Brocklebank, Keisha Erickson, Marylee Quock, Nate Alexcee, Megan Joseph, Kyla Reid, Kelly Quash, Celina Day, Lester Dennis

Heart of Gold Award
"Granny" - Rita Reid, Lola Etzerza

Tahltan Lovebirds Award
Laberta and Harry Watts





115-YEAR TAHLTAN DAY 2025

TAHLTAN DAY 2025: CELEBRATING 115 YEARS OF CULTURE AND PRIDE

One hundred and fifteen years ago, over eighty members of the Tahltan Nation gathered in Telegraph Creek to discuss our rights and title, and sovereignty over our land. We held meetings on October 17th and on October 18th drafted and signed our Declaration of the Tahltan Tribe.

To this day, the Declaration is our founding document establishing Tahltan sovereignty:

“We claim the sovereign right to all the country of our tribe—this country of ours which we have held intact from the encroachments of other tribes, from time immemorial, at the cost of our own blood.”

Tahltan Day 2025, held on October 18, marked the 115th anniversary of Tahltan Day. It was a meaningful time for our people to come together, reflect on our history, and celebrate who we are. From the early morning Poker Run to Tahltan booths, the bannock contest, evening dance, and many more community activities, it was a full day of fun, connection, and culture.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us, and to the organizers, cooks, volunteers, and staff who made this celebration possible.

We are proud to be Tahltan.

Thank you, Jozef Bienkowski-Gibbs, for capturing these wonderful community moments.









NATIONAL ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK 2025

From November 17 to 21, Telegraph Creek was filled with a lot of meaningful moments as our community gathered to celebrate the National Addictions Awareness Week.

It was wonderful to see our community unite and support one another and be inspired by each other's spirit and stories. From the pancake breakfast, paint night, and crib tournament to our cozy coffee house night filled with music, the week was full of warmth, laughter, and togetherness.

A beautiful Community Dinner wrapped up the week, followed by Sober Acknowledgements, where we honoured and listened to the journeys of community members moving toward sobriety.

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped make this week a truly memorable one!









TAHLTAN GRADUATION CEREMONY 2025

On July 26, the Tahltan Band community came together to honour the achievements of our 2025 graduates, from kindergarten to post-secondary. This special evening was filled with meaningful moments and joyous celebration.

The event began with a grand entrance, as graduates walked in with pride and excitement. This was followed by a moving candlelight ceremony.

Chief Richard Jackson delivered an inspiring speech, reminding everyone of the strength, perseverance, and bright futures embodied by the graduates. His words set the tone for the night and uplifted all in attendance.

Throughout the evening, families shared warm embraces and captured precious memories. Graduates of all ages celebrated together, striking fun poses and exchanging smiles. One of the highlights was the cake-cutting part, where graduates gathered to mark this important milestone.

The 2025 Graduation Ceremony was a heartfelt celebration of Tahltan strength, unity, and the bright future carried by our graduates. Congratulations to each of you for your hard work and spirit!

We gratefully acknowledge Newmont for their generous support in helping make this celebration possible.





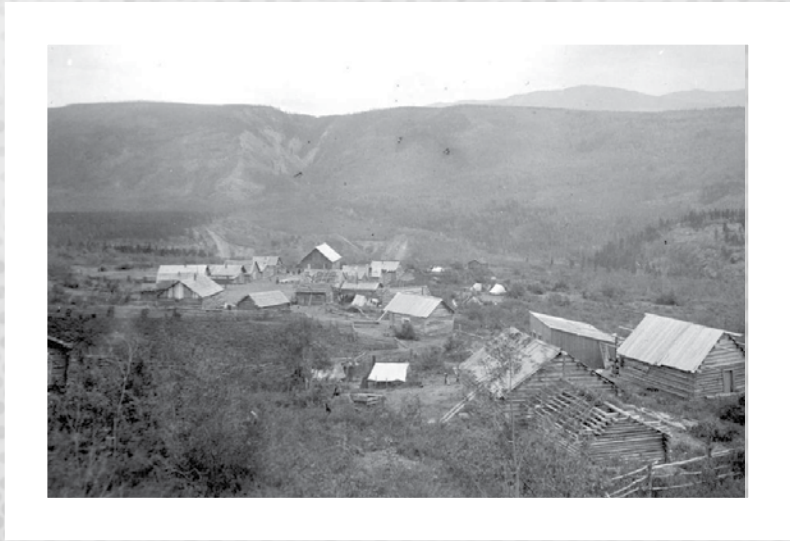
Packer Johnnie and
Others, Tahltan
Stone, Andrew Jackson (1859-1918)

TAHLTANS IN THE ARCHIVE



Three Tahltan Young Men
Stone, Andrew Jackson (1859-1918)

Tahltan Village
Stone, Andrew Jackson (1859-1918)

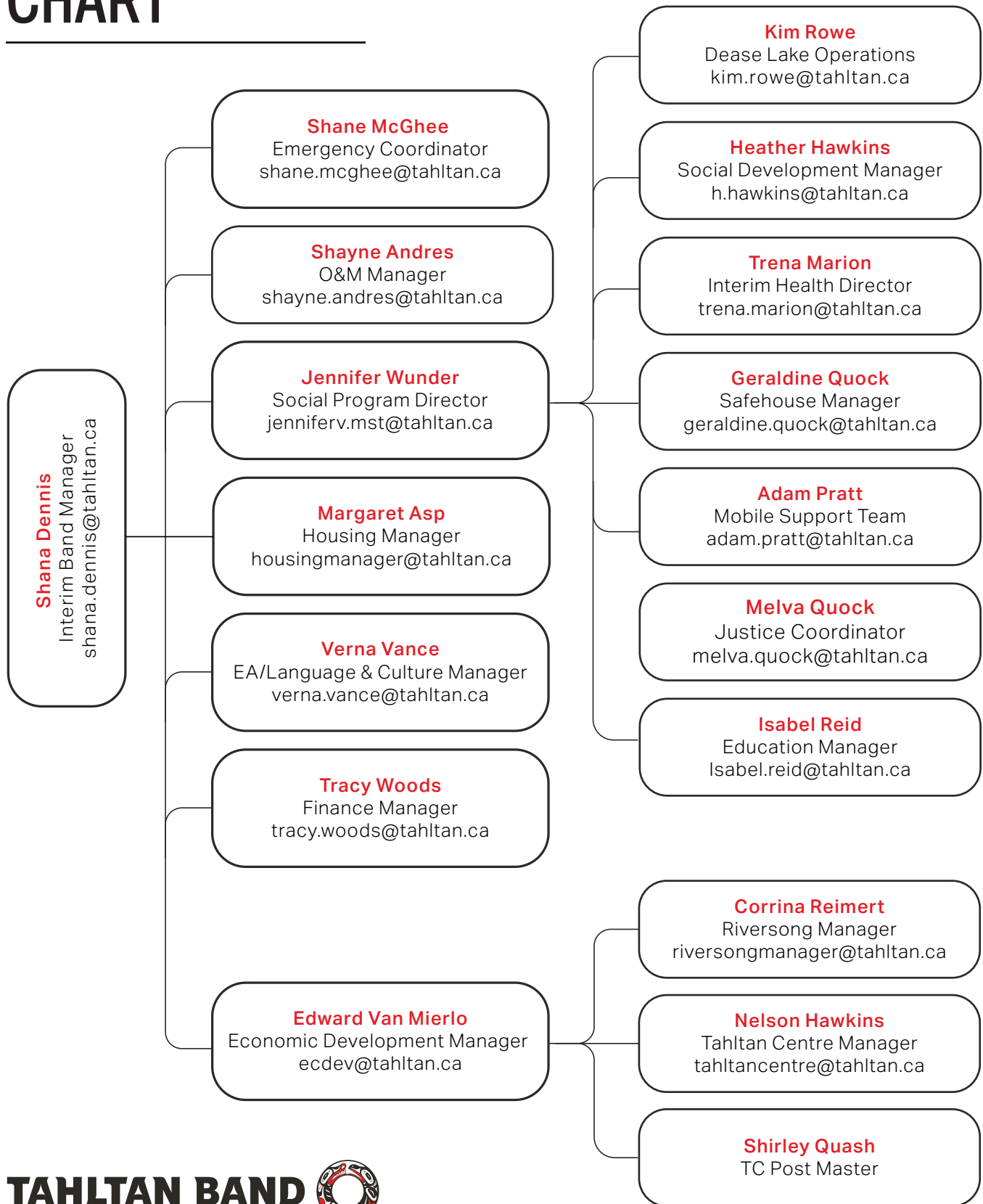


Tahltan Girls
Stone, Andrew Jackson (1859-1918)

**Tahltan entering Stikine River,
showing the junction**
British Columbia. Dept. of Mines (1899-1960)



ORGANIZATION CHART



COMMUNITY SERVICES CONTACTS

› TAHLTAN BAND OFFICE DEPARTMENTS IN TELEGRAPH CREEK

Phone: 250-235-3151

- Chief and Council
- Education Coordinator
- Membership
- Social Development
- Justice
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Operations and Management
- Finance
- Culture and Language

› TAHLTAN HEADSTART IN TELEGRAPH CREEK

Phone: 250-235-3058

› TAHLTAN CENTRE IN TELEGRAPH CREEK

Phone: 250-235-3131

› POST OFFICE IN TELEGRAPH CREEK

Phone: 250-235-3610

› THREE SISTER'S SAFEHOUSE

Direct Line: 250.235.3120 DIRECT

Crisis Line: 1.888.414.2836 MOBILE

› KEHKE WELLNESS PATHWAYS (MST)

Phone: 250-882-9380

› PEOPLE'S HAVEN DEPARTMENTS IN DEASE LAKE

Phone: 250-771-5577

- Family Wellness Manager
- Victim Services/Ku'we'gahn
- Sexual Assault Support Services
- Building Blocks (0-6)
- Social Programs Director
- Meals on Wheels
- Elders Home Care Services
- Child, Youth, & Family Wellness Coordinator

› TAHLTAN HEALTH CENTRE IN TELEGRAPH CREEK

Phone: 250-235-3211

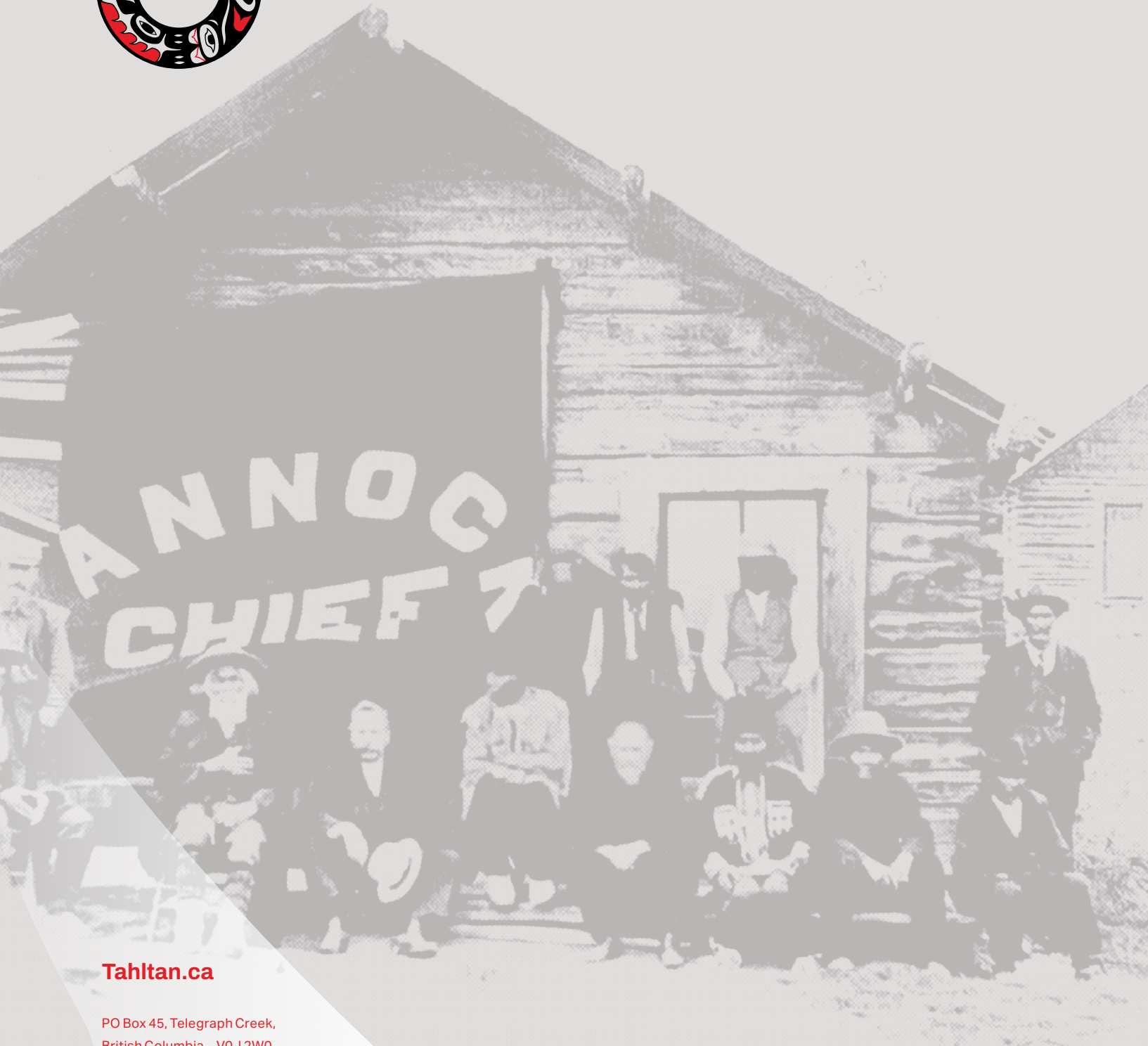
- Health Director
- Clinic Services
- Patient Transportation
- Meals on Wheels
- Community Support Worker
- Community Health Representative
- Elder Home Care Services

› POST OFFICE IN DEASE LAKE

Phone: 250-771-5013

› KEDA YAZE KIME CENTRE (ABORIGINAL HEADSTART) IN DEASE LAKE

Phone: 250-771-3906



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