

Newsletter



November 2024

CHIMNEY CLEANING PROGRAM

As we prepare for winter here are a few tips to help make our maintenance program be effective for you.

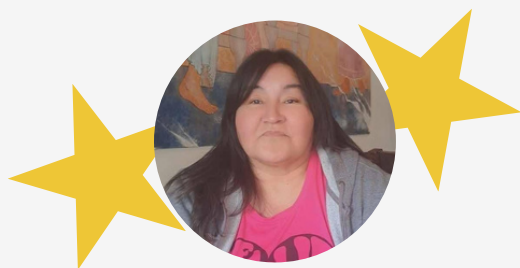
The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is soon launching the NND Chimney Cleaning Program to ensure safety throughout the upcoming winter season. NND is asking Citizens who are residents of NND housing to take the following steps to prepare for chimney cleaning:

- Clean the areas around the wood stove so the cleaners can have access to the stove (this includes stairwells)
- Check your smoke detector and make sure it is working (ask us if you need assistance)
- Watch for your scheduling notice and please be home and ready to avoid any delays.
- If you have your bleeders, housing will check and turn them on, please don't shut them off throughout the winter season unless you are instructed to do so.

This program is open free of charge to all NND Citizens in NND housing. For NND Citizens not living in NND housing who would like to sign up for chimney cleaning for a nominal fee, contact Daniel Pictin, email: capital.director@nndfn.com, Phone: 867 996-2265 ext 119

SHOUTOUT TO JOSEPHINE HAGER: OUR SHINING STAR!

We want to take a moment to recognize Josephine Hager, our acting Home Support Coordinator, who has truly stepped up over the past month and a half. Josephine has been instrumental in coordinating our home support services, showing immense dedication to our elders and vulnerable community members. Her growth in our department has been inspiring, and we are excited to see her continue to shine. Thank you, Josephine, for your unwavering commitment—you are a shining star in our wellness team!



SHUTTLE SERVICE

If you require shuttle pickup please provide at least 24 hours notice, and text Sheila at 867-332-1244. If you don't hear back by the end of the day, please contact the NND Office at 867-996-2265 and ask to speak to Dan.

A reminder that shuttle hours are 730am - 430pm Monday - Friday.

If you are an Elder requiring transportation, please call Michelle at 867-383-0013.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FUND

The deadline to apply to the NND Post-Secondary Education Fund for the Winter 2025 semester is November 15, 2024.

NND Education funding supports a range of initiatives, including:

- Youth Recreation
- Post-Secondary Education
- Community Training
- Work Clothes Funding
- School Supplies Funding

To submit an application via email, please contact Terra Blanchard at educationmanager@nndfn.com or pick up an application form at the government house front desk.

INDIVIDUAL WELLNESS PLANS AVAILABLE

Interested in creating a personalized wellness plan? Intakes are open year-round! Please contact Mika Bernier, Director of Wellness, Health, and Social Programs, at wellnessdir@nndfn.com or at 867 996-2265 ext 125, to sign up. Mika is flexible and can meet you in person, over the phone, or in the comfort of your own safe space.

Take the first step toward improving your overall well-being with a plan tailored to your individual needs. Let's work together to support your wellness journey—reach out today!

Mussi Cho

WELLNESS PROGRAM DEADLINES: ELDERS FUEL PROGRAM

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is pleased to announce that as of October 10, 2024, a resolution has been passed allowing the Social Programs team to administer and approve special requests for fuel assistance year-round on a case-by-case basis for disabled and vulnerable citizens.

For those aged 60 and over or with disabilities, the deadline to apply for the Elders Fuel Program for the fall/winter season is approaching.

To enroll, please contact the Manager of Social Programs, Dennis Peter at dennis.peter@nndfn.com.

Remember to submit your original invoices or receipts for processing. Invoices must be dated between September 30, 2024, and April 2025. Please note that the Finance Department is currently understaffed, so processing times may be delayed. Elder fuel program members are asked to send their bills to Dennis Peter at dennis.peter@nndfn.com for the time being.

Mussi Cho

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE UPDATE

In October, the Wellness Department held a Balsam medicine harvest, and we are excited to distribute Balsam tea to our vulnerable citizens and families to help prevent and treat colds and flu this season.

OCTOBER: ON THE LAND MEN'S PROGRAM

In October of 2024, the Wellness & Social Program department led an On The Land Men's Program. We're excited to share some photos from that experience.

An "On The Land Men's Group" will be starting shortly. If you're interested in participating, please get in touch with Mika Bernier at wellnessdir@nndfn.com or at 867 996-2265 ext 125.



SOCIAL PROGRAM REMINDERS

Please remember to submit your previous month's eligibility documents and utility bills before the cut-off date (the 15th of each month) to receive your Social Assistance cheque. Your funds may be adjusted or withheld in accordance with Social Assistance Policy 11.0: Conditions of Maintaining Eligibility.

Eligibility for Social Assistance is reassessed monthly under General Conditions of Eligibility (Policy 4.0). To continue receiving benefits, recipients are responsible for:

- Providing proof of expenses:
 - Submit receipts, invoices, or pay stubs showing that allowances are being used as intended.
- Sharing updates:
 - Provide your intake worker with information on efforts to follow your case plan.
- Being available for interviews with your intake worker.
- Notifying the intake worker of any changes in circumstances that may affect your eligibility.

Additional requirements include:

- Submitting records of job applications and demonstrating an honest effort to seek work.
- Showing effort to access employment services, education, and training.
- Participating in any NND work or Social Assistance programs available.
- Please note that FNNND will be enforcing these policies going forward. If you do not provide the required documentation your SA may be held as per policy.

WELLNESS TIP: STAY HEALTHY WITH GOOD NUTRITION

As the colder months and longer nights approach, it's important to maintain healthy eating habits to keep your body strong and resilient. Here are a few quick tips:

- Eat seasonal, nutrient-rich foods: Include plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in your diet to boost your immune system.
- Stay hydrated: Even in colder weather, drinking water is essential to keep your body functioning well.
- Take Vitamin D: Living so far north, we often don't get enough sunlight during fall and winter. Taking a Vitamin D supplement can help keep your bones, immune system, and overall health in check. The Wellness Department can assist with reimbursing Vitamin D supplements—reach out if you need support!

Stay healthy this season!

RIDDLE: MEDICINE

I grow tall and strong in the northern air,
My sticky sap has healing to share.
Collected with care for teas or salve,
To soothe the cold or ache you have.
What am I, with a scent so sweet,
A gift from nature, a quiet treat?
What am I?

Answer: Balsam

WILDLIFE CONTAMINANTS MONITORING PROGRAM

FNNND, in collaboration with the YG Department of Environment, has launched a Wildlife Contaminants Monitoring Program. Hunters are asked to participate and can pick up a testing kit from the FNNND Lands office or YG's Environment office in Mayo or Whitehorse.

The specific samples the program is looking for will come from caribou and moose harvested anywhere in the McQuesten River watershed. Samples requested from each animal harvested are 1 kidney (with surrounding fat), 1 chunk of liver (about the size of a 500g butter cube), 1 chunk of hindquarter meat (500g), and the front of the lower jaw (with incisor teeth).

EVENTS

- **Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation's Annual Citizen's Meeting** | Nov 9 | 5-8 pm | Mayo Curling Lounge | Open to NND Citizens
- **Women's Healing Circle** | Nov 13 | 5-7 pm | Wellness Centre | Open to NND Citizens & Staff
- **"Wind River" Film Premier** | Nov 14 | 5 pm | Yukon Arts Centre | Whitehorse | Open to NND Citizens & Staff
- **Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation's Annual Citizen's Meeting** | Nov 16 | 1-4 pm | Whitehorse & Online | Yukonstruct - Whitehorse (and online) | Open to NND Citizens
- **Geoscience Yukon Conference** | Nov 17 | KDCC - Whitehorse | Ticketed | Open to the Public
- **Andre Bear: Indigenous Suicide Prevention Workshop** | Nov 20-21 | 9:30 am - 3:30 pm | Multi-purpose Room | Open to NND Citizens & Staff
- **Finance Workshops** | Nov 22-23 | Multi-purpose Room | Multipurpose Room | Open to NND Citizens & Staff
- **Women's Healing Circle** | Nov 25-27 | 5-7 pm | Wellness Centre | Open to NND Citizens & Staff

PUBLIC UPDATE ON FNNND'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE EAGLE GOLD MINE

Since the June 24 heap leach failure at Eagle Gold Mine, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) has been working around-the-clock to address existing environmental harm and mitigate further disaster. FNNND has been working on both the political and technical fronts, with FNNND's own environmental monitoring and remediation experts.

Work is currently focused on addressing existing safety issues on site including the construction of the safety berm. A key priority on site remains the building efforts of increased storage capacity for the cyanide solution. At this time, water treatment has not yet begun on site.

Water monitoring efforts continue with cyanide levels at Dublin Gulch and Eagle Creek valleys testing as high and increasing. This is due to the groundwater seep happening. Groundwater is being collected and moved to storage ponds, in addition to a new sump being constructed aimed at intercepting groundwater before it reaches Haggart Creek.

While FNNND's fish surveying has completed for this year, the Government of Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has initiated a Chinook overwintering habitat working group, whose objective is to identify overwintering habitat that could be used by juvenile salmon. This group is tasked with the study design and research and reports back to a steering committee whose main objective is the stock rebuilding of Pacific Salmon-Yukon River Chinook. DFO has committed to assessing habitat and juvenile Chinook presence in Haggart Creek.

At this time, work occurring on site is competing with the fast-approaching freeze-up. Once winter fully arrives and work is unable to continue, the teams will be working throughout the winter and collaborating on plan for work to continue in spring 2025.


For more information on the above, a detailed public update, and more, can be found at FNNND's Emergency Response to the Eagle Gold Mine Crisis website here, <https://emergency-response.nndfn.com/>

Contact us for further inquiries:



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