

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

Newsletter



February 2025

Youth Centre

Youth finish off hockey practice on the C6 skating rink at the Youth Centre.



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Zhyan Sothan Citizens & Staff,

Nahtzyän etsyäwa k'etlá ze, or February, is an important month for Northern Tutchone people and our journey of reclaiming our self-governance and sovereignty. On February 14, 1973, our leaders carried the document Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow to Ottawa. They travelled thousands of kilometres, but it was the first step on what would become the Umbrella Final Agreement, and our Final Agreement signed two decades later.

Our ancestors made this journey in order to reclaim our voices and reclaim our futures. We honour their legacy by continuing to walk that path. To build our Nation aligned with our laws and our values, informed by our Knowledge. To build our a Nation for our grandchildren. We honour that legacy every time we learn and speak a new word in our language, or share what we have, or teach what we know.

We are the children of tomorrow they were thinking of when they wrote Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow. February is a month where we honour their work, and we commit to our own work for our own children of tomorrow.

Mussi Cho

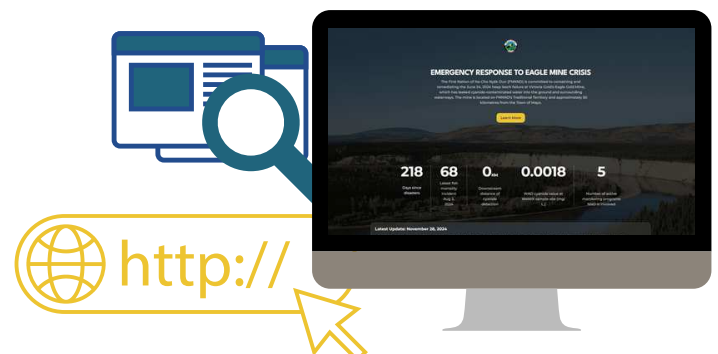
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun Chief & Council

UPDATE ON EAGLE GOLD MINE CRISIS

Information accurate as of January 24, 2025.

- Mitigation and remediation work continues at the Eagle Gold Mine site.
- The safety berm construction is now complete. This is a critical piece of infrastructure meant to protect the main camp and key work areas on site.
- Contaminated water treatment for cyanide has begun, treating around 3,000 m³ per day. This is anticipated to be increased to 6,000 m³ soon.
- Treated water still has copper that exceeds the discharge standards, so treated water with high copper levels is being stored in IROSA Pond 2, which as mentioned is experiencing leakage.
- The Yukon Water Board approved less stringent discharge standards for cyanide and copper in Victoria Gold's water licence on an emergency basis. This emergency licence amendment applies up to March 15, before grayling move into Haggart Creek, and is meant to allow water discharges to Haggart Creek to reduce the dangerous strain on onsite storage ponds. The licence provides that discharged water must not be fatal to fish. FNNND provided input to the Yukon Water Board about monitoring, conditions, and potential impacts of the emergency license amendment.
- An extensive water monitoring program continues as Haggart Creek is experiencing increasing containment levels that exceed the water quality guidelines. The contaminants include cyanide, copper, and mercury. It is important to note that these levels are concentrated to regions near the Eagle Gold Mine site and not further afield.
- In response to this, contaminated groundwater and contaminated surface water collection remains critical activities. Groundwater wells are in place for collection with some pumps installed in groundwater wells, but have not been connected yet.
- All fish, aquatic life, and wildlife monitoring has paused for the winter season, but is anticipated to resume in the spring.

For more information, and a more detailed update on the Eagle Gold Mine crisis, please visit: <https://emergency-response.nndfn.com/>



STORIES AND UPDATES

REMEMBERING CARMEN FROM THE EVENTS AND CATERING DEPARTMENT

Events and Catering Department hold heavy hearts this New Year as we navigate working without our dear friend and team member. There is much to be said about Carmen Savanna Irene Melancon- from her bright spirit filling whatever room she was in, to her expert taste testing abilities in the kitchen. We all held witness to the warm and utterly contagious ray of sunshine that Carmen kept in her pocket, constantly spreading positivity upon others. If you didn't see her in the office, perhaps you heard her wonderful laugh running through the halls, unavoidably putting a smile on your face.

On the long kitchen days, she would uplift the rest of us with her captivating work ethic- motivating the team to keep going even when she was also exhausted. She was a relentless perfectionist, writing and re-writing her lists, keeping Hazel and Ava on schedule constantly...if it wasn't perfect Carmen would re-do it! She held such pride in her hard work and valued being a strong team member- her pride was befitting, as she was the glue that held us together with a level head and a wack of solutions.

Carmy was the best part of all our days, our community events will never be the same without her beautiful energy. We will honour her memory for the days to come, and she will forever exist as the bright, vibrant, beautiful, goofy, hard-working girl keeping us all in line.

Rest In Peace Carmen, We all love you.



NND WELCOMES THE REPATRIATION OF A BABY BELT

During CPAWS' 'Voices from Wind River' event, the baby belt was there as a donated auction item by Barbara Bayck. The NND Heritage and Culture team bid on the item, and were successful in bringing it back home.

In reviewing the beadwork, we believe that the beadwork is created by (top shoulder descending) Martha Buyck, Helen Buyck, Alice Buyck and logo by Betty Lucas.

If you think it may be another artist please let Melody Hutton or Teresa Samson at the Heritage & Culture department know.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Please join us in welcoming Eliza Moses, our new Wellness Worker! Eliza will be available at the Wellness Center Monday to Friday for drop-ins. Stop by to say hello and learn how she can support you on your wellness journey.

PUBLIC SKATING RINK IS OPEN!

The Education and Capital Services Departments invite everyone from the community to come out and enjoy the public skating rink located across from the Youth Centre in C6. A change room has been provided and there will be an open fire pit on special occasions. Skates and helmets for youth are available at the Youth Centre. Don't forget to stop by and check out the rest of the fantastic Youth Centre programming happening all year long!

Enjoy and share your photos of family fun!



BEADING & GRIEF

Jona Barr, Yukon First Nations Education Directorate, created an orange t-shirt for every child matters campaign held each year. He made a beaded orange t-shirt while attending the grief and trauma sessions with Dr. Darien Thira to gain skills on how to work with those experiencing tragedy.



UPDATE FROM EDUCATION

The Education Department would like to welcome our new Post-secondary and ASETS Coordinator, Denise Simmons. For all inquiries and requests please reach out at pse.aset@nndfn.com

The Education Department has been proud to provide funding to the following initiatives:

- youth recreation subsidy
- work clothes allowance
- post-secondary education
- community training

REMINDERS

Citizen Survey

Have your voice heard!

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun has launched a Citizen Survey focused on land use, economics and employment. Your input is the key to the success of this project.

The survey will take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete, and you will receive a \$30 gift card in addition to your name being entered for a prize.

How to participate:

You can also call Barb Buyck at 867-334-7914 or the FNNND office at 867-996-2265 extension "0" to schedule a time to complete the survey in person or on the phone.

OR

You can pick up a survey and/or drop off your completed survey at the FNNND Government House in Mayo.

Survey Deadline is February 14, 2025.

Mussi Cho - we look forward to your feedback!

FNNND Employment Opportunities

- Early Childhood Educator
- Maintenance Supervisor
- Payroll Clerk

To apply, contact Ronalda Moses at hr@nndfn.com or 867-996-2265, extension 121

Women's Wellness Group

Meets every Tuesday evening from 7-9pm at the Wellness Centre. To sign up, please register with Mika Bernier at: wellnessdir@nndfn.com

February Meals on Wheels Menu | February 2025

The meals on wheels menu is set! Please look for weekly menu updates on the NND Facebook page, or the full menu at: nndfn.com/social-health/

February Self-Care Tip from the Wellness Team

The cold months can be hard on both body and spirit. Keep warm with teas made from traditional medicines like Labrador tea, mint, or rosehips. Take time to connect with the land or enjoy a moment of gratitude to recharge your energy.



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Teet'it Gwinjik National Park Feasibility Assessment

Your input is needed.

February 3, 5:30-7:00 pm - Evening Dinner in Mayo, NND Government House
February 5, 5:30-7:00 pm - Evening Dinner in Whitehorse, Sternwheeler Boardroom 3
February 6, 5:30-7:00 pm - Evening Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
Meeting ID: 859 2213 8696
Passcode: 950296
Contact: Tess McLeod at Email: tess.mcleod@nndfn.com

Victim Services Support Information

February 4 & 5, the Victim Services Support Worker, Patricia Greer For more information, you can reach Patricia at: patricia.greer@yukon.ca or 867-335-6389.

Dän Laachewdäw Kän Gathering House | Community Planning

Whitehorse: Khutän Room: 302-105 Titanium Way
February 4, 6-8pm | Community Planning Visioning Story Circle
Mayo: Multipurpose Room at Government House
February 5, 5-8pm | Community Planning Design Workshop
February 6, 10am - 3pm | Dän Laachewdäw Kän Design Focus Groups
February 6, 5-8pm | Dän Laachewdäw Kän Open House & Community Planning Scenarios Exploration

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun General Meeting

February 8, 2025 | 9am - 5pm

Special General Assembly for FNNND Citizens.

February 9, 2025 | 9am - 5pm

Update and next steps on the Eagle Gold Mine Crisis. Meeting will cover current activities on site and upcoming next steps. **Mayo:** Mayo Community Hall **Whitehorse:** Yuke Room, IRP **Zoom Link:** <https://bit.ly/4adUT8h> (also available on nndfn.com)

Let's Talk About Salmon

Feb 11, 5-7pm | Mayo Community Hall

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun & Mayo District Renewable Resource Council. We will share information on salmon initiatives taking place within our Traditional Territory and across Yukon and Alaska, and gather feedback and input from community members. Dinner and door prizes provided!

Yukon North Stars Hockey

February 15

9:00 - 9:45am - Power Skating Skills, Ages 5-10

9:45 - 10:30am - Power Skating Skills, Ages 11+

10:30 - 11:30am - Puck Skills, Ages 5-10

11:30am - Ice Flooding

12:00 - 1:00pm - Puck Skills, Ages 11+

1:00 - 2:00pm - Small area games for all ages

Register via email at: youth.coord@nndfn.com

For more info, please email Mika Bernier at: wellnessdir@nndfn.com

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Wellness Centre

Beading is Medicine

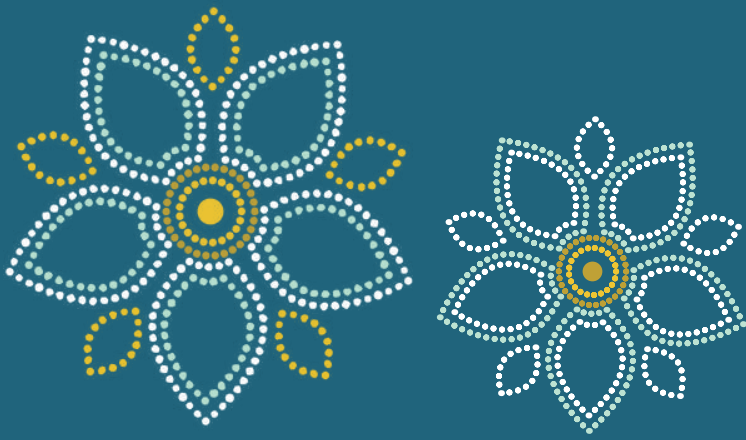
Monday & Wednesday Evenings, 7-9pm at the Wellness Centre

Shawl & Mitten Making

Every Thursday with Sophie, 6:30 - 9pm at the Wellness Centre
Tea and snacks provided.

Bear Grease Making Class

Thank you to everyone who signed up for the Bear Grease Making Class! Registration is now closed, and we'll announce the dates soon. Stay tuned for updates in our March newsletter.



FUN STUFF

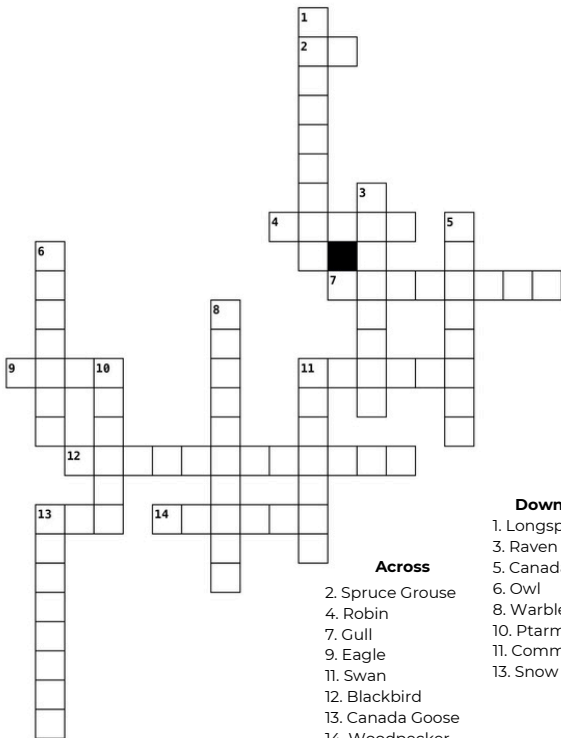
Language Lesson Crossword Puzzle

Do you know the Northern Tutchone words for birds? This month, we're introducing a crossword puzzle where the answers are Northern Tutchone words!

Bring a cup of tea to the language speaker in your life and complete the puzzle together!

Want to do it on your own? Download the NND Language App and find the answers for yourself. Available in the Apple App store and Google Play store.

Northern Tutchone Crossword - Chua



Across

2. Spruce Grouse
4. Robin
7. Gull
9. Eagle
11. Swan
12. Blackbird
13. Canada Goose
14. Woodpecker

Down

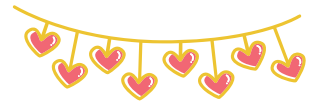
1. Longspur
3. Raven
5. Canada Jay
6. Owl
8. Warbler
10. Ptarmigan
11. Common Duck
13. Snow Goose

Kitchen Corner: Monthly Healthy Recipe from Ava

Valentines Day Lasagna for 2

Ingredients

- 1 Lb Ground Meat (Pork, Beef, Moose, Turkey)
- 3 Jars Tomato Sauce
- 3 Jars Ricotta Cheese
- 1 Bag Spinach (Fresh or Frozen)
- 3 Boxes Lasagna Sheets (No boil sheets)
- 1 Bag Shredded Cheese
- Dried Basil
- Salt and Pepper
- Aluminum Baking Tray or Small Casserole Dish
- Aluminum Foil



Instructions

- 1.) Start by cooking the ground meat, once it is cooked, add the canned tomato sauce to make it into a meat sauce
- 2.) Now we can start assembling the casserole! This will be done in layers and repeated until you reach the top of your casserole dish;

Meat Sauce

- Lasagna Sheets
- Ricotta Cheese
- Spinach
- Salt and Pepper

- 3.) Repeat this process until you have no more space to continue- top the lasagna with shredded cheese and dried basil
- 4.) Cover with Aluminum foil and bake at 350°C for 1 Hour
- 5.) Serve with Garlic Toast and Caesar Salad!

Enjoy!

Contact us for further inquiries:



First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Wellness & Social Programs

PO Box 220 Mayo, YT Y0B 1M0

+867-996-2265

www.nndfn.com

main@nndfn.com

Emergency Contacts

Capital, Housing and Water: 383-1079

Shuttle Driver (10am - 4pm): 332-1244

RCMP Emergency 911

RCMP Non-Emergency: 667-5555

Nursing Station: 996-4444

Reach out Support Line: 844-533-3030

Kids Help Phone: 800-668-6868