

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

Newsletter



June 2025

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Zhyän Sothän Citizens & Staff,

Welcome to Ezra ze! In our language, "June" translates to "month when moose calves/young animals are born" - which also means there is a lot to celebrate this month. Our lands are teeming with the vibrancy of new life welcomed to the world magnified by the arrival of summer solstice. This time of year is a celebration of light, life and land. This is the time when we are gifted long days to spend with each other on the land, sharing what we have and what we know. This month we also celebrate our community members in many ways. June is pride month where we uplift and celebrate our community and remember that our Na-Cho Nyäk Dun worldview has always been one of diversity and inclusivity. We also celebrate graduates this month, those that have spent years dedicating themselves to their education, often far from their home and loved ones. Walking across the stage this month is a symbol of NND strength, resilience, and of how our community is working together to define and determine our future. Lastly, June is Indigenous Peoples Day, a day set aside to celebrate ourselves and everything that defines us as Na-Cho Nyä Dun people. Our language, our land, our art, our people, our stories, and so much more.

Too often the world can feel dark and overwhelming, but June is the time we are reminded that there is so much to celebrate in our world, in our community, and in ourselves.

Mussi Cho,

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Chief & Council



Elder Walter Peter is showing Patti Wallingham the procedure for rubbing beaver feet on a young child's hands to make them strong, good workers.

UPDATE ON EAGLE GOLD MINE CRISIS

An Update on the Eagle Gold Mine Crisis, written May 27, 2025.

June 24th marks one year of the Eagle Gold Mine Crisis. For NND, this year has been one filled with grief, frustration, and betrayal for the systems and actors that have been responsible for the harm that has come to our lands, and for the legacy of broken promises that have continued with this disaster. Stay tuned to our communication channels for more details on how we will be acknowledging June 24th.

The increased levels of water from the spring melt continue to be a significant concern for FNNND. The team is working hard to ensure that appropriate mitigations are implemented to avoid additional spill-over incidents that could have significant environmental contaminant potential. Because of this, ongoing storage construction and water treatment is crucial. To date over 200,000m³ of contaminated water has been treated and discharged. However, to date the treated and discharged water has not met all effluent standards, meaning heavy metal contaminants are present in Haggart Creek.

Heap Stabilization work has been delayed due to the lack of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) required for the shipping of cyanide contaminate samples. Despite this ongoing issue, the Engineer of Record is moving ahead with geotechnical analysis and reporting that can be done without the sample analysis.

2025 fisheries monitoring is soon to be underway, along with a fish protection plan intended to mitigate fish from entering potentially contaminated waterways. Haggart Creek is a prime area of concern for this work.

The Independent Review Board is due to publish their findings this June. FNNND eagerly awaits this report, but remains critical of the limited scope of the review. For this reason, FNNND reiterates our call for a full public inquiry to consider the systemic issues that may have contributed to the collapse, including the role of YG's regulatory oversight.

The Eagle Gold Mine Crisis continues to be an emergency situation in which environmental protection remains the priority and primary concern for the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

More information about what is happening on site at Eagle Gold Mine can be found on the FNNND's social media channels and at <https://emergency-response.nndfn.com/>.



STORIES AND UPDATES

MAY GATHERING 2025

Last month, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun was grateful to gather alongside our fellow Northern Tutchone Nations at the May Gathering. This is an important time of connection, sharing of our language and culture, and revitalizing our relations with land and one another. Mussi Cho for everyone who worked hard to make this important event happen, and all those who made time to attend.



RALLY FOR CHANGE

On April 30th, our community came together in honour of the ongoing and unjust deaths occurring amongst our community members and other Yukon communities at the Whitehorse shelter. Nobody should be dying in a facility that is meant to provide safe and supportive accommodation to our territory's most vulnerable. Our people deserve dignity and justice. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun will continue to advocate for our people, and demand justice from the Yukon Government and the Whitehorse shelter. For questions, or information on how to support this work, reach out to Karen Nicloux at karennicloux@live.com.



NEW HERITAGE OFFICE RUG BY NND ARTIST JUSTIEN WOOD

The NND Heritage office is grateful to welcome a new rug into our space. The piece is the work of NND Citizen, Justien Wood. Justien is a multi-talented Northern Tutchone/Dene Artist from Yukon, Canada. She is a member of Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation and belongs to the Wolf Clan.

In 2007, Justien started carving as a student in the Sundog Carving program. She has learned from teachers such as Calvin

Morberg, Vernon Asp, Victor Reece, Lee-Ann Dorval, Deanna Solonski, Wayne Price and fellow students. In 2009 Justien was invited to apprentice under Tshimsian Carver Victor Reece. In the summer of 2009 Justien returned home to the Yukon to join the Sundog Carvers and Tlingit Carver Wayne Price in building a 30 foot red cedar dugout canoe. Justien became a mother to a beautiful boy named Eli in 2011. Now Justien stays at home with her son and works at building her artistic career by continuing to grow, learn, and create in hopes that her art will spark joy in others.

Justien enjoys carving, painting and beading. She has recently started to incorporate her beadwork into her carvings. Justien has gratitude and passion for her art.

Justien has been inspired by her son, many different artists, family members, teachers, students, and friends. Justien is not only inspired by the people in her life but by the many gifts the Universe has to offer. Justien puts bright colors, good vibes and lots of love into her art.

Mussi Justien for this beautiful addition of NND spirit and talent into our space!



Check
it
out

Red Dress Day

On May 5th, NND honoured those taken from our families and communities by hanging a red dress. We do this as a reminder that the injustice of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited Persons is an ongoing crisis. It is a reminder that the spirit of those taken has not been forgotten, and that our leaders continue to advocate and fight for change and justice.



REMINDERS

Dän Laachewdāw Kún: Gathering House

We encourage you to take part in making Dän Laachewdāw Kún a place where the community feels belongs to them. In May, we celebrated the updated design of Gathering House and the completion of Design Development. As we move closer to construction, we are collecting a list of community members and their skills so that we can reach out to you when we are ready to start building the building!

Fill out the available skills survey here:



Along with construction, we are creating a list of important items that you would like displayed and protected. This will ensure we create the spaces needed to make sure our community stories are included.

Fill out the desired items for display survey here:

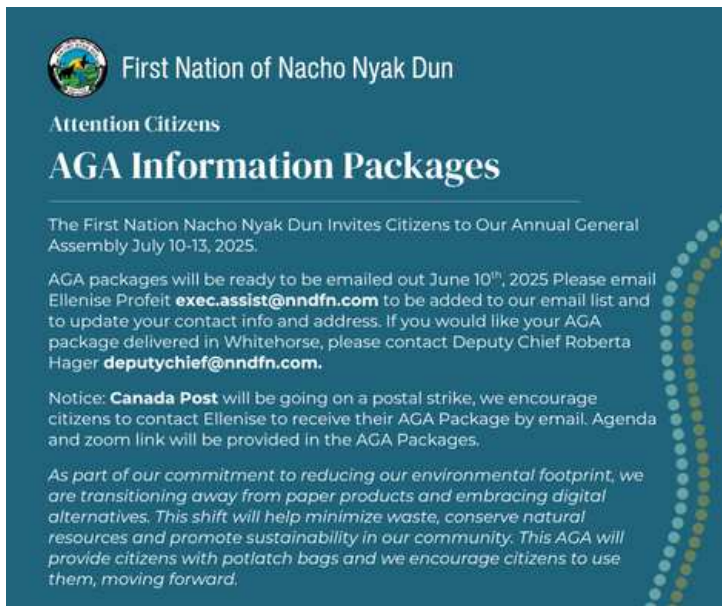


If you missed our engagement event in May, we welcome your input or comments at the next engagement events or through our two available surveys linked above. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact: Nicole via DLK@regeneratedesign.com

Together, we are honoring our past and shaping our future.

FNNND Annual General Assembly

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is reminding Citizens of the upcoming Annual General Assembly this summer. The assembly will take place July 10-13, 2025 in Mayo. For questions, please reach out to ed@nndfn.com.



First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

Attention Citizens

AGA Information Packages

The First Nation Nacho Nyak Dun Invites Citizens to Our Annual General Assembly July 10-13, 2025.

AGA packages will be ready to be emailed out June 10th, 2025 Please email Ellenise Profeit exec.assist@nndfn.com to be added to our email list and to update your contact info and address. If you would like your AGA package delivered in Whitehorse, please contact Deputy Chief Roberta Hager deputychief@nndfn.com.

Notice: **Canada Post** will be going on a postal strike, we encourage citizens to contact Ellenise to receive their AGA Package by email. Agenda and zoom link will be provided in the AGA Packages.

As part of our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint, we are transitioning away from paper products and embracing digital alternatives. This shift will help minimize waste, conserve natural resources and promote sustainability in our community. This AGA will provide citizens with potlatch bags and we encourage citizens to use them, moving forward.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



3D Imaging of Ancestral Items

NND is embarking on an exciting initiative that seeks to preserve language and culture through hologram technology (no, really!). The next phase of this work is recording cultural items as 3D images.

In collaboration with Troy Anderson and Carleton University, NND is asking Citizens to come out and have your ancestral and cultural items recorded in order to digitally preserve these important aspects of our culture.

- NND will not keep your items (you take them back with you!)
- You're welcome (and encouraged!) to be present during the imaging process
- Free and open to all community members.

Join us with your items June 4-11, at Yukon University Mayo Campus. For more information, reach out to: melody.hutton@nndfn.com.

Mayo Pride Parade

June is pride month! Join Mayo residents in celebrating inclusivity in our community in this year's Mayo Pride parade. Hosted by Ihdzi', the pride parade will kick off on June 7th at 1pm. Come out and show pride for your community, or reach out to join the parade by contacting: ihdzi@nnddc.ca.

Governance Act Amendment Discussion with Citizens

Join the NND Council in learning more about upcoming proposed amendments to the Governance Act. Have a chance to participate in the discussion, ask questions, and most importantly, ensure that Citizen voices inform these anticipated governance changes.

June 11th 5PM-8PM

Mayo, YT | NND Multipurpose Room

Massage Therapy with Clancy McInnis, RMT

Register today for a 50 minute session to support blood flow and help your mind relax.

June 9-13 | 8:30am - 4:30pm | Mayo Health Centre

Call Susan Morberg at 867 996 2265 ext.136 to book your session.

Dāna Nāye Ventures Youth Summit 2025

The Dāna Nāye Ventures Youth Summit is a Yukon & British Columbia First Nations youth event that promotes financial literacy, entrepreneurship basics, YFN Trusts, and more. Come together with Youth across the region to gain important skills to support community leadership and business skills now and in the future. Open to Indigenous youth aged 18-29, with travel and meals provided. The summit runs in Whitehorse, Yukon from June 17-19, 2025.

Reach out for more information, or register at rose@dananaye.com or educationmanager@nndfn.com.

Youth Council Meeting

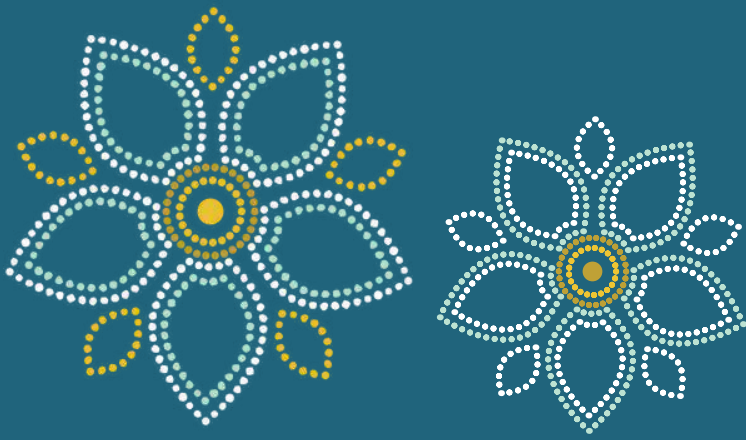
This month the agenda for discussion will include: future trips, university tours, and fundraising.

June 19 | 4:30 - 6:00pm | NND Multipurpose Room or via Zoom

For questions or for the Zoom link, please reach out to Sitka Reid at youth.coord@nndfn.com

Indigenous Peoples Day

Join us June 21st in celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day!



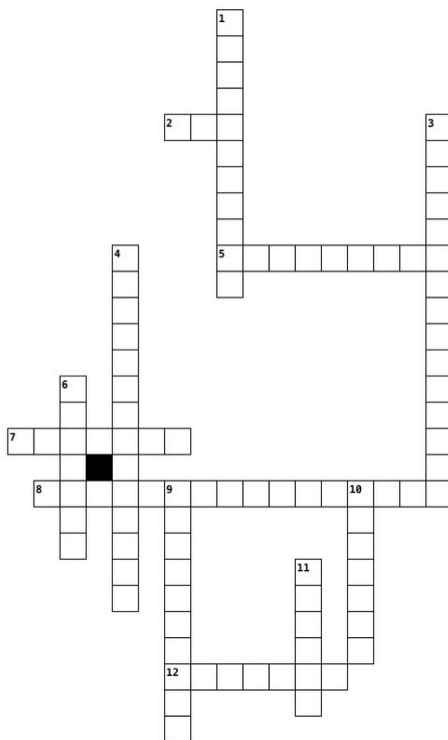
Language Lesson

This month's crossword theme is all about town! What are the Northern Tutchone names for buildings you find around town?

The answers are the translated Northern Tutchone words. So 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 - Buildings



Across

- 2. House
- 5. Hospital
- 7. Elder's Centre
- 8. Church
- 12. Post Office

Down

- 1. Campsite
- 3. Government House
- 4. Restaurant
- 6. Cache
- 9. School
- 10. Dance Hall
- 11. Store

Kitchen Corner: Monthly Healthy Recipe from Ava

Summer Spinach Salad

- 1 Bag of Spinach washed and chopped
- 3 Honey Crisp Apples washed and chopped
- ½ Cup Chopped Candied Walnuts (substitute for any nut)
- 3 Sticks of Celery Chopped Fine
- ½ Red Onion Sliced Thin
- 1 Avocado Chopped
- 1 Chicken Breast Cooked and Sliced
- 1 Cup Crumbled Goats Cheese (or Feta)
- 1 Bottle of Poppyseed Dressing

Mix all ingredients into a big salad bowl and enjoy with friends or family on a sunny day!

Employment

This program is designed to support young community residents develop important skills across a diverse field of industries. Open to Indigenous and Non-Indigenous youth aged 14-23, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun has open summer positions in:

- Garden/ Landscaping Workers
- Administrative Assistant (multiple positions)
- General Construction Workers
- Landscaping Workers
- Fire Smart Worker
- Environmental Monitor Worker
- Fish and Wildlife Worker
- Daycare Student Worker
- Youth Worker

Positions begin June 16th. Preference will be given to First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Citizens, although all are encouraged to apply. For questions, or to submit your resume, please contact Ronalda Moses at hr@nndfn.com or via phone at 867-996-2265 ext. 121

Contact us for further inquiries:



First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Wellness & Social Programs

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