

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

Newsletter



September 2025



UPPER STEWART RIVER TRIP

Provided by CPAWS Yukon

Congratulations to all the participants of the 2025 Upper Stewart River Community Trip! After 11 days on the water and 317 km of paddling, the group returned with many great stories.

Ten young sandhill cranes foraged at the airport, metres away, unknowingly part of the send-off. In the narrow, shallow headwaters, the water was so clear and the corners so tight that spruce needles had to be cleaned from the canoes.

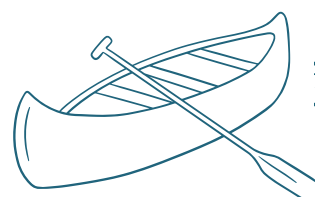
Laurent, Marshall, and Joti hiked into Ortell Lake, one of the Stewart watershed's headwater lakes. Jani and Beth crossed through a burn full of bugs under a rainbow before sunset. There were encounters with beavers, swans and geese, and twice the group came upon grizzly bears crossing the river. One of the bears made a long crossing, taking loud, audible breaths as he swam. One night, the group camped near Five Mile Rapids on a huge stone beach, exposed by low water levels, with stunning rock formations all around.

The trip wasn't easy. After Ddhaw Cho (Ortell Peak), water levels dropped and the current slowed, with progress sometimes just 1 km per hour. The group paddled long days through storms, heat, and sore muscles.

Each person had something to share and teach the group, and together they experienced the larger lessons taught by the river and the land. With each day, everyone grew stronger. You could see and feel the connections between water, language, and wellness.

At the welcome back dinner (still in wet, dirty clothes), folks shared photos and some stories with the community. Halfway through, Chief Dawna Hope announced to participants that the Yukon government and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun officially committed to begin regional land use planning. It was a momentous day that celebrated the end of one journey and the beginning of another!

👋 Participants (left to right) included Kadrienne Hummel, Nicole Schafenacker, Joti Overduin, Randi Newton, Jani Djokic, Ronalda Moses, Laurent Turgeon Dharmoo, Bethany Paquette, Patty Wallingham, and Marshall Buyck.



STORIES AND UPDATES

LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS

On August 13, 2025, the Yukon Government announced an MOU signed with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to begin our land use planning process, as outlined in Chapter 11 of our Final Agreement and the Umbrella Final Agreement. This multi-year process will create a plan for the land that will prioritize developing sustainable prosperity. This plan will include consideration of Indigenous-led conservation through a holistic, integrated, cumulative effects lens, cultural and traditional practices, sustainable industry and development and more. Having Na-Cho Nyäk Dun co-lead a land use plan will mean that future decisions concerning the land will be informed by self-determination and reduce land-use conflicts into the future.

The day after Yukon Government made their announcement, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun made a declaration in accordance with our own Mining Policy that no new mineral staking will be permitted during the land use planning process. This right to self-determination in land management has been further supported by the March 2025 Yukon Supreme Court's decision that found mineral staking claims in the Peel Watershed Region "inappropriate" during that region's land use planning process.

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is committed to keeping Citizens up to date as this multi-year process unfolds. More information on what FNNND's policy on no new mineral staking means for industry will be made available shortly. The FNNND Mining Policy is available to read online at www.nndfn.com/land-resources.

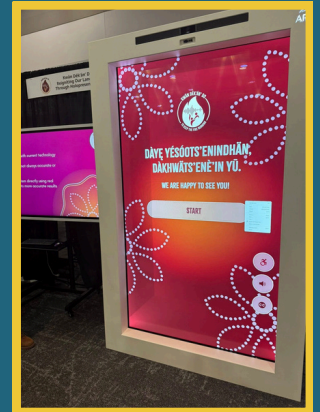
REJECTION OF YUKON GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED MINERAL LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK

On July 30th 2025, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun publicly rejected the Yukon Government's proposed framework for new mineral legislation. New mineral legislation has been a long-standing promise of the Yukon Government that has yet to be fulfilled. After the Eagle Gold Mine catastrophe, it became evident what FNNND has known for years, that broad, systemic changes were needed to how the Yukon mining industry is governed and held accountable. FNNND is bound by Yukon Government's confidentiality clause, which is why we are unable to share more details at this time, but our rejection is rooted in the proposed framework not containing the substantive and significant overhaul of the legislation that is required for mining to sustainably continue on NND lands.



Kwän Dék'án' Do at WAVES 2025

This month, the Kwän Dék'án' Do language project team (part of FNNND Heritage and Culture) travelled to Ottawa to present their work at the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages WAVES event. This global language summit gathered Indigenous language speakers and people dedicated to language preservation and revitalization from across North America and beyond. The team was excited to share some of the early work on this initiative alongside project partners, Carleton University. There will be a Kwän Dék'án' Do and language celebration event in Mayo on September 30th where community will be invited to see a demonstration of the technology and provide valuable feedback on this work.



BACK TO SCHOOL WITH ELDER WALTER PETER

Walter Peter spoke to the students on their first day back to school about the journey of becoming a good Elder. He reminded them that this learning begins at a very young age. Each day they come to school and gain new knowledge, they are taking important steps toward that path. We are taught that our responsibility is to pass on what we learn, so he encouraged them to listen, learn, and grow—because one day, they too will be the ones to teach.



FNNND/SNOWLINE YOUTH PROGRAM

In August, the first edition of the Youth Program created in collaboration with Snowline Gold and the FNNND Department of Education kicked off on the Traditional Territory. This program invited community youth to explore career opportunities on their own lands. Shout out to Liam, Chayce and JayQuinn for having the drive to jump in as we all know coming to a camp for the first time can be intimidating at any age without knowing what it's all about. For more information on how to participate in the next youth program, please reach out to Denise Simmons at educationmanager@nndfn.com or at 867 996-2265 ext 120.



REMINDERS

Reminder from Housing & Capital Services

As the fall season approaches, we will begin preparing all homes for the winter months ahead. During the second week of September, the Housing Team, together with our plumbing partners, will be visiting homes to inspect and activate bleeders, and to ensure all crawl space plumbing is properly protected for the cold season.

We will also be scheduling chimney cleanings during this time. Notices will be delivered a day in advance to let you know when access is needed.

We kindly ask that you ensure clear and safe access to crawl spaces. If you have any questions, concerns, or if there are any barriers to access, please reach out to the Housing Department at capital.director@nndfn.com or at 867 996-2265 ext 119.

We thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our homes safe and warm for the season.

Dän Laachewdäw Kún Gathering House FAQ's and Website Launch!

Where did the name come from?

Dän Laachewdäw Kún means "a place where people gather." The community chose our name, and it was confirmed by Elders.

What will be in Dän Laachewdäw Kún?

The feedback from the community made it clear—we needed a dedicated space where our stories could be told, and our culture could truly thrive. A place where the three Northern Tutchone communities can collaborate, where artists can showcase their artwork, where long ago stories are told. Where people can build skills, and share knowledge.

We are excited to tell you a bit more about Dän Laachewdäw Kún. We have launched a website so that you can get more information, including our story, the construction and exhibit surveys, with more Frequently Asked Questions and upcoming events. Find it all here at: <https://www.regenativedesign.com/dlk>

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



September 30th Language Celebration

On September 30th, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun will be welcoming leadership from Carleton University and The Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages to our community in celebration of our language and the Kwän Dék'án' Do (To Keep The Fire Burning) project.

This project embraces holopresence and artificial intelligence technology to create an interactive record of Northern Tutchone culture and develop a digital language model with the goal of building a foundation to support ongoing language learners for generations to come, and eventually creating open-source access for Nations across the globe. This work is entirely informed by data sovereignty and guided by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's Traditional Knowledge policy.

continued...

This event will be a celebration of language, as well as a showcase of what work has been accomplished over the past year. There will be opportunities for Citizens to provide important feedback, and learn how to get involved.

More event details coming soon. Stay tuned to nndfn.com and our social media pages.

Harvest Camp

NND Citizens and Mayo residents are invited to join us for a moose hunt Harvest Camp at Ethel Lake Camp from Sept 14-28. In order to attend, participants must commit that no pets or school age children will be brought along, and that they can commit to participating in wellness programming/on the land activities.

Interested people are asked to complete an application form with Laurent Turgeon-Dharmoo at 867-383-0120.

Elders Christmas Raffle

The Elders Christmas Raffle Fundraiser draw date has been extended to September 22. Tickets are \$5ea or 6 for \$25. Every bit helps in raising funds for the annual Elders Christmas event.

Prizes include:

- Pressure Washer
- Air Fryer
- Ice Maker

For more information, or to purchase tickets, reach out to Florence Pilon at elderscoordinator@nndfn.com or 867 383 0175.

Email Money Transfer to: brysis2000@outlook.com

Youth Centre September Schedule

FNNND Youth Centre Calendar of Activities – September 2025						
Hours: Monday to Friday 3:30 – 6:00 PM: Ages 9 – 12 Monday to Friday 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Ages 13 to 18 – (Unless programs allow) Saturday: 1:00 – 8:00 PM: – All Ages						
**** Some Programs offered at other locations (e.g. YH20 – Youth Centre will be closed during those hours)**** Stella Reid 867-996-2265 ext. 410						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	3:30 to 8:00 pm – Pizza and Music	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Ethel Crafter-meet	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts
1	CLOSED	4:00 to 6:00 pm – Youth Council Meeting	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Reading in Elders	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Elders Stories	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	Ethel Elders and Youth Game Afternoon
14	CLOSED	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	3:30 to 8:00 pm – Pizza and Music	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Ethel Crafter-meet	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts
21	CLOSED	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Reading in Elders	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Elders Stories	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	Ethel Elders and Youth Game Afternoon
28	CLOSED	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts		3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts	3:30 to 6:00 pm – Small Crafts



Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation Corner

Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation Fall Term Scholarships

NNDDC is excited to announce a new, streamlined scholarship program that makes it easier than ever for learners to access funding for their education. We've designed this program to support all areas of study and all levels of post-secondary learning — from certificates and trades to graduate degrees and beyond.

Two Scholarship Streams:

- ♦ Ddhaw Chán (Foothills Stream) – for those pursuing university programs, including undergraduate and postgraduate studies (Bachelor's, Master's, PhD).
- ♦ Ddhaw Etsyawa (Hill Stream) – for those pursuing certificates, diplomas, apprenticeships, trades, continuing education courses, or other non-traditional learning opportunities.

This flexible approach means no matter your path of learning, there's a scholarship opportunity designed to support you. Whether you're training in the trades, continuing your education, or working toward an advanced degree, NNDDC is here to help.

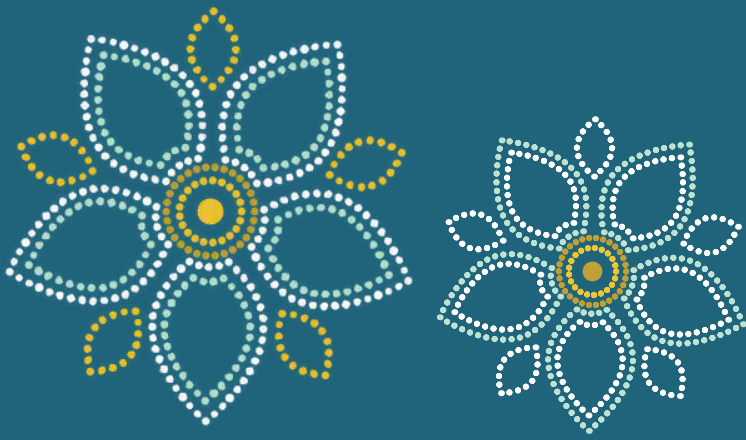
Funding Available:

Up to \$15,500 in scholarships will be awarded for the Fall Term 2025.

How to Apply:

- ➡ Apply online at nnddc.ca
- ➡ Deadline: September 20, 2025
- ➡ For questions, email us at info@nnddc.ca

NNDDC extends our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make these scholarships possible. Your support ensures more opportunities for learners and invests in the future success of our community.



Language Lesson

This month's language lesson's theme is all about Medicine! We get our medicine from many different places. Sometimes it's from the pharmacy, but we also have many important medicines gifted to us from the land. Complete this word search with an Elder or Knowledge Holder in your life, and ask them what these Northern Tutchone medicines are. Or, download the NND Language app and learn on your own.

Medicine

L J U C K R X X D E V U K P X
V V M S H I L W M B W O X R D
Z R G N H E K L F I Z T G A C
L D B J T R G A T Z L M B A H
X O E W D R A H J Y O N G J U
Z C S K K N O J R G K T E V N
J O N A O M Y C E O L D K E I
B Q F Y O W M O H K C W W I Z
N R N E T Q C X G U C H A Q Y
B O E K S V N H S Z N H U B B
J X H A O K W X U D M I U N Z
K T V H K J W H U N F E Q N I
I Q Y Z D O J N Z C I U W P I
Z M F W Z X E C A S Y G U K U
X U N J I L L L R N H D J H E

CHĒGHRŌ CHŪNĪ SHRĀJĒKCHŪNĪ DEKŌWCHŪNĪ
T'RO CHŪNĪ TS'OK DZĪ CHŪNĪ

Employment

The following positions with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun are open until filled. For more information, or to apply, please reach out to Ronald Moses at hr@nndfn.com or 867 996-2265 ext 121. Or visit <https://www.nndfn.com/employment> to view and download full job descriptions.

- Capital and Infrastructure Admin. Assistant
- Tekwant'e Män (Ethel Lake) Camp Caretaker
- Elders Driver Until Filled
- Elders Council Clerk
- Community Safety Guardian
- HR Technician
- Water Truck Operator Trainee
- Hot Lunch Cook Assistant
- Aquatic Analyst
- Executive Assistant
- Education Advocate



First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

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Kitchen Corner: Healthy Recipe

Rosehip Porridge

This month, the nights are getting colder and the sun is taking just a little bit longer to rise. On fall mornings like this, we like to wake up to a big bowl of porridge - with a sweet touch of rosehips. Made all the better if honourably harvested from the land.

Rosehip Syrup

Ingredients

- 3 cups fresh rose hips or 2 cup of dried rosehips
- ¾ cups raw honey
- 1 1/4 cups water

Steps

1. Rise under cold water and cut off the ends of the rosehips, and cut large ones in half
2. Using a blender or food processor, mash until the rosehips are broken apart, but not mashed.
3. Place the mashed rose hips into a large saucepan, then pour in the boiling water. Close the lid of the saucepan and let it sit overnight. This method not only helps the syrup to become richer in colour but also enhances the flavour.
4. The next day bring to the boil, then turn the heat down and simmer for around 15 minutes.
5. Let the mixture cool down. Once it's cooled, strain the syrup through a fine mesh sieve lined with a few layers of cheesecloth, removing the seeds or itchy hairs.
6. Warm the syrup one last time (but don't boil!) in order to add the honey. Stir until fully mixed.
7. Carefully pour the syrup into sterilized bottles and seal. Label and use within 6 months and refrigerate once opened.



Porridge

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup steel cut oats



Steps

1. Place water, milk, and kosher salt in a small or medium saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat, about 5 minutes. Reduce the heat to medium-low and add steel-cut oats. Cooking, stirring regularly, until thickened significantly, about 15 minutes.
2. Reduce the heat to low. Continue cooking, stirring frequently, until almost all of the liquid is absorbed, about 10 minutes.
3. Remove the saucepan from the heat. Add in the desired amount of rosehip syrup (Also good to add any cranberries you've recently harvested as well).