

First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



NND Youth Celebrate First Hunts!

This month, community members are celebrating NND Youth on their first successful hunts!

- **Blake Profeit** (Son of Blaine Peter and Erin Profeit)
- **Taliyah Ewing** (Daughter of Grant Ewing and Lynette Peterson)
- **Nevaeh Peter-Profeit** (Daughter of Paul and Ashley Peter-Profeit)
- **Tanner Moses-McLaren** (Son of Ronalda Moses and Lawrence McLaren)

Congratulations to each of you on this exciting accomplishment.

If your family has a first hunt to share, contact us at socialmedia@nndfn.com



Blake Peter-Profeit



Taliyah Ewing



Nevaeh Peter-Profeit



Tanner Moses-McLaren

Teet'it Gwinjik (Peel River) Watershed: National Park Feasibility Announcement

On September 10th, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, Parks Canada and the Government of Yukon announced the successful completion of the feasibility assessment for the proposed national park in the Teet'it Gwinjik (Peel River) Watershed in northeast Yukon.

Through the feasibility assessment, the four governments have concluded that:

- A national park in this area is both feasible and desirable.
- They will move ahead and begin negotiating an establishment agreement. This is the next step in the process for creating a new national park.

The Teet'it Gwinjik (Peel River) Watershed is a unique northern area with stunning landscapes of forests, free-flowing rivers and wildlife. The site is central to the traditions, cultures and ways of life of the Gwich'in and Na-cho Nyäk Dun.

Indigenous-led conservation is foundational to any vision for a proposed national park in this area. This initiative presents a unique opportunity to uphold Indigenous self-determination, protect the integrity of the Teet'it Gwinjik (Peel River) Watershed and support the continuation of cultural practices on the land. The Parties are committed to working together toward a new national park that reflects shared values, protects biodiversity, and honours Indigenous knowledge, culture and stewardship.

"On behalf of the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun I want to extend my thanks to the governments of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Canada and Yukon for the good will you have brought to completing the Feasibility Study for the proposed National Park in the Teet'it Gwinjik Watershed. This engagement has been a great example of how intergovernmental collaboration should work in the era of the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement and the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim. We have re-affirmed the sanctity of our treaties and the integrity of the Peel River Watershed Regional Land Use Plan."

We look forward to continuing our good work in the negotiation of an Establishment Agreement that maintains the Park in a pristine natural condition and promotes Indigenous led conservation."

Chief Dawna Hope
First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun

Update from the Dunena Ko'Honete Ko Daycare

It has been quite the exciting summer over at Dunena Ko'Honete Ko! We started the summer with just under 20 children this year! Most of the children preschool age and up were enrolled in swimming lessons throughout the summer. The children got to help plan and decorate the centre for a tea party that we held that parents/guardians were invited to. Our staff worked very hard doing three ELCC courses throughout the summer to advance in our training and towards our levels. During these courses, we had help from Irene Johnny, who helped with recording language buttons that we have around the centre for the children to learn new phrases and sayings. We also have a language book that was made with photos of the children doing different facial expressions and have feelings written in Northern Tutchone beneath them and translations. The children got to go on many outdoor excursions throughout the summer to soak up as much sun as they could before the cooler weather hits. We wrapped up the end of the summer with our first preschool graduation. We would like to send a very heartfelt congratulations to Theoren, Rosalie, Remi, and Mariah! We hope you enjoy your full days at the school; we'll miss spending the days with you!



Notice: Chimney Cleaning

Chimney cleanings are also scheduled to begin in early October. You will receive a notice at least one day in advance to let you know when access to your home will be required. We kindly ask that no fires be burning in woodstoves or fireplaces on the day of your scheduled cleaning.

If you have any questions, concerns, or anticipate any barriers to access, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Housing Department.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in keeping our homes safe and warm this winter!

Staff Spotlight: Leanne Hoogland

The Food and Catering Department is happy to announce our first permanent member, Leanna Hoogland who has been promoted to Sous Chef at FNNND. Leanne has been devoted to catering with us for the last year and wishes to carry on with all her good work. She has taken our Meals on Wheels program and elevated it to a level of consistency and poise. We all look forward to watching her blossom within culinary and working toward completing her Real Seal.

Good job Leanne!



REMINDERS

Dän Laachewdäw Kún: Gathering House

How would you like to be involved or participate in the construction of the Gathering House?

What skills do you want to learn or training you would like to have to enable you to be a part of construction?

We are creating a list of community members and their skills for when we are ready to start building the building, fill out the short survey here:

https://forms.gle/fSb316kUWoreYut8_



Fillable Form 1



We are putting together a list of important items that you would like displayed and protected. Some questions on the exhibit survey:

What do you want to see in the gallery and exhibit spaces for you and for future generations?

What do you have to offer or house at the Gathering House? Fill out the form here:

<https://forms.gle/w9YhdyiapqZacu2C7>



Fillable Form 2



The surveys are short and easy to fill out. But if you would like help filling it out, please contact Nicole via DLK@regeneratedesign.com

For more information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is available on a DLK website page you can find here: www.regenerative.com/dlk



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

Elders Christmas Raffle

The Elders Christmas Raffle Fundraiser draw date has been extended to October 31st. Tickets are \$5 each 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

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Annual General Meeting

October 18, 2025 | 9 am - 5 pm - Mayo Community Hall and Whitehorse Sternwheeler Hotel

Calling all NND citizens, please join us for the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

For Citizens who are living outside of Mayo, or will be out of community, please find the zoom link on the NND facebook page.



Youth Halloween Party

Friday October 24, 2025 for ages 11 and under.

Saturday October 25, 2025 for ages 12 and up

Spooky season is here! All you ghouls and gals are invited to a youth halloween party!.

Yukon First Nations Wildfire Warrior Program Returns

The Warrior Program is open to youth ages 16–30 who are ready to challenge themselves, build new skills, and connect with others in an empowering, supportive environment.

Dates: November 17–28, 2025 (weekdays only)

Location: Linda Rapp Landing, Robert Service Campground

Information: Call 867-667-7258 or email admin@yfnw.ca

Register at: <https://www.yfnwildfire.com/>

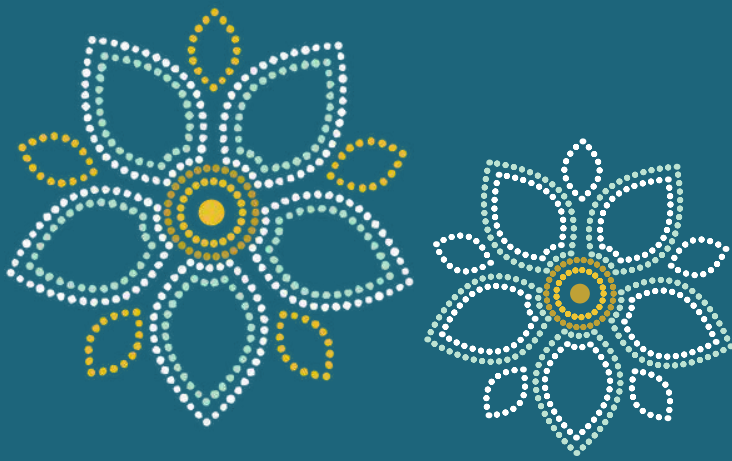
Don't miss this opportunity to learn, grow, and take the next step in your journey.

NA-CHO NYÄK DUN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CORNER

The Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation is hosting their Annual Citizens' Meeting for Fiscal Year 2025. This meeting is a chance to hear updates on operational and financial performance of NNDDC, the impacts of the Eagle Gold Mine Crisis, and planning for Fiscal Year 2026 and beyond. Come learn more about the strategic plan that informs NNDDC's work and share your vision for its future.

November 14 | Ihdzi'

November 22 | Whitehorse & online
(in-person location to be confirmed)



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Language Lesson

This month's language lesson's theme is all about people!

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!

NT People

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

DUNYÉNAZHRA	HUDEDEDÄN	CH'ÓNIDÄN
DDHÄWDÄNA	DANDEZHAN	HÁTÄANA
DEK'ÄNA	DEK'ÄN	EGUNE
HANDYÄ	HAHKI	ECHO

Employment

The following positions with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun are currently open until filled. For more details and full job descriptions, please visit: www.nndfn.com/employment

- Post Secondary Education and Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy Coordinator
- Tekwānt'e Mān (Ethel Lake) Camp Caretaker
- Elders Driver
- Elders Council Clerk
- Community Safety Guardian
- HR Technician Until Filled
- Water Truck Operator Trainee
- Hot Lunch Cook Assistant
- Education Advocate



Monthly Recipe by Ava Cairns-Locke

AUTUMN UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE

Part 1: Caramel

1) Get one 9x9 cake pan, add ½ cup butter and ½ cup brown sugar into the bottom- place into your oven until it becomes bubbly and golden, whisk if need.

2) Choose your fruit! I like Green Apples, Peaches, or Pears this time of year. Take one piece of fruit and cut it into ½ inch thick slices, make sure they are even.

3) Once the caramel is done, remove from oven and place your fruit slices on top the caramel in whatever fashion you desire, make sure you push them down into that caramel, so they are not just floating on top. Sprinkle a little nutmeg and cinnamon on top. Set aside.

Part 2: Cake Filling

1) In your mixer, add ½ cup of softened butter, 1 cup of white sugar, and 2 eggs and a splash of vanilla. Using the whisk attachment, whip up the mixture until creamy.

2) Now, add 2 cups of all purpose flour, 1 teaspoon of baking powder, a pinch of salt, along with ¾- 1 cup of 2% Milk. Using the paddle attachment, cream together until just mixed, and smooth.

3) Pour that batter into the caramel and fruit in the pan, and place into a 350°F oven for 25-35 minutes or until golden (and your toothpick comes out clean).

4) The most important step to an upside-down cake is COOLING ! Let the cake cool fully before flipping it over, I like even making it the day before, so it has all night to set. When the time comes to flip, use a butter knife and just scrape the sides around the cake to ensure there is nothing stuck, and flip it out onto a pretty tray! Serve with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

Enjoy!

First Hunt Story

Tanner Moses-McLaren (13 years old)

Tanner harvested his first Denyak this fall at the family trap line continuing the legacy of his great-grandfathers and ancestors.

"It is a blessing and honour to see our sons grow, learn, and live our traditional way how we were taught to raise them by our grandparents.

Our sons are blessed to have spent their early years watching and preparing themselves for this day, where they transition from a boy to a man and show that they are capable of providing in harvesting from start to finish independently. It is a proud moment, and we appreciate and honour our Ancestors none the less hold up our hands in gratitude to the land, animals and Creator in honouring us in return."

~ Mussi-Cho, Ronalda/ Lawrence