

TAAKU



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



Fall Issue 2021



HEALING FOR OUR *Future*

Journey to Tlingit Land by Joan Jack

We will overcome by Kaushee O'Shea

Family Connections by Louise Gordon & Vivivan Mahoney

T'aakú Téix'i The Heart of the Taku

Contributors to this publication include: TRTFN staff and members of the Health and Social Department Youth Program. Its aim is to showcase the amazing work of our TRTFN staff and share stories and knowledge within our community. We invite you to email us your comments, questions and things that you would like to see added in each issue (hss.media@trtfn.gov.ca).

Editorial Note: We hope you enjoy this fall edition of the TRTFN Taaku Newsletter. With each issue we invite you, our community members, to share your feedback, offer ideas and content you wish to see, and share this publication with your family and friends. Our goal is to share positive stories, learn about each other and bring together a sense of connection.

Please visit our website at www.trtfn.com for more information about TRTFN, and to download this issue and other issues to read and share virtually.

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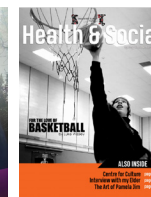
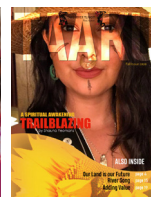
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Jìnik

(Charmaine Thom)
TRTFN SPOKESPERSON

My name is Jìnik (Charmaine Thom) of the Yanyèidi Clan. I was born and raised very traditionally by Evelyn and Sylvester Jack in Atlin BC. I spent my youth on traplines, hunting camps, and fish camps. Through this experience I developed a strong work ethic. Today I continue to live a traditional lifestyle and enjoy time with my grandchildren.

I am newly elected Spokesperson for Taku River Tlingit First Nation, after a successful run in the fall election in August 2021. I am honored to represent our Nation; this is an opportunity to listen and lead accordingly. As I begin my three-year term, I continue to encourage and support on the land healing activities and gatherings throughout our territory.

The findings of the 6000+ children who were taken and never returned from Residential School throughout Canada, has re-kindled our collective desire to find healing and resolution. It is confirmation of our collective stories and experiences that wrongs were done to us, to our elders and our children and we were subject to harm and

genocide. This has caused relief in us, but it has also forced us to recognize that there is a lot of healing to be done. There is unity to be found from this deep pain.

I believe in supporting our youth to start stepping up into leadership roles while our elders are still with us, so we can draw on their strength. There is an opportunity to make changes and learn a different way within our organization to support each other and our people and include them. Prior to being elected, one of the main concerns voiced was how our people wanted transparency and to be included in communication. That is my goal, to uphold those two key pieces.

Great things are happening here, community events and gatherings, and so many successful projects and thriving departments. We continue to acknowledge and celebrate our strengths. To be Tlingit is to be proud of who we are. Our Elders are wise and wonderful. Listening to their clear direction has allowed us to grow and heal together.



Strength

Charles Pugh
TRTFN CAO

As winter approaches, we hope that everyone has been successful in their harvest. We look forward to the winter and the many exciting projects that we see in the future. For all our citizens and our TRTFN team we wish you all the best in health and happiness for this new season.

We recognize that it has been a difficult time as we all deal with the residential school burials, and we appreciate the strength and resilience that everyone has shown in a time of grieving and loss.

Some of the positives we have had, have been those that have rediscovered their connection to family, community and reaching out to join their nation. We also welcome the new leadership; we are excited about their vision for the Nation.

We thank the former leadership for the strong foundation that they have made for the Nation thus far, and the path that has been placed before us.





Photo Credit: Shauná Yeomans



Land Water & Air

Rodger Thorlackson TRTFN Lands & Resources Manager

Hunting season is in full swing and this means that the Land Guardians are out on the land conducting hunting patrols. We have been patrolling by quad, boat, and truck to monitor hunters and ensure that all non-TRTFN hunters follow the regulations. To prepare for this work, we joined the Kaska and Tahltan Guardians last month for a three-day training course offered by the BC Conservation Officer Service. We learned how to collect evidence, document violations, and talk to hunters. We have subsequently patrolled jointly with the Atlin Conservation Officer, and we plan to work with him and do check stops on the Atlin Road to monitor hunters leaving the Traditional Territory.

Hannes Schraft
Land Guardian Program Officer



Lands Engagement Division Report by Christine Ziegler

We have been reviewing the Atlin Hydro Expansion Project as part of the Project Review Group (PRG).

We processed 40 applications of various land uses (e.g., placer mining, archaeology etc.) since the beginning of the year.

Working with the BC Engagement Coordinator on:

- Improving engagement between BC Arch Branch and TRTFN Lands.
- Developing a visual for steps to be taken in case of non-compliance.
- Developing a partnered collaboration for spatial data.
- Developing an online-based space for sharing files related to the engagement process.

Conducting joint inspections with BC Parks on conservancies and with BC Ministry of Forest Lands Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) on rangeland & grazing.

We have been providing engagement updates to the government-to-government (G2G) Forum.

We are advancing TRTFN Lands' mapping capabilities.

Moose Survey – Share your knowledge

Wildlife is always a key priority for TRTFN, and it's been a very busy year so far, with a busy winter to come. The health sampling from the wild sheep was done last winter. Not all lab analysis is complete, but none of the worst disease for wild sheep, known as Movi, appear to be present here. It is transferred from domestic sheep and goats to wild sheep and has a very high mortality rate, often above 90%. We are trying to work with the Yukon, BC, and local residents to test domestic sheep for this disease as it could wipe out the entire population of sheep. Although the sheep all tested negative for disease, it was a hard winter and it appears from our monitoring that many died in late winter.

We have heard the community's frustration about the intensity of moose hunting happening, and we are working to address the issue. It is a key wildlife focus through the G2G, working to change the hunting regulation to reduce the amount of non-locals hunting moose around Atlin and crowding out local hunters. We implore community members to fill out the survey on moose that is posted on the TRTFN website (<https://trtfn.com/news/moose-survey-share-your-knowledge/>).

We can help anyone who needs help with the online survey. Everyone who participates will be eligible in a draw for prizes. TRTFN Lands will be doing an aerial survey this winter to count moose in Atlin east, we intend to use the data to support action for the concerns of community members.

Ryan LaPointe
Wildlife Coordinator
Taku River Tlingit First Nation



Welcome Erin Sketchley our newest Lands Engagement Officer



I am the Mining Engagement Officer at TRTFN! I grew up in Campbell River on Vancouver Island and though it is very different than Atlin, there are some parallels. I spent my summers camping, hiking, and fishing for salmon and my winters skiing in the mountains.

I feel a strong sense of place to my home on Vancouver Island and I am so thrilled to already be feeling that same sense of place here in Taku River Tlingit Territory. I am very grateful for any opportunity to get out on the land whether it be hiking in Blue Canyon during my free time or water sampling on the Tulsequah River for work. I always feel inspired and motivated to help look after this amazing area. My educational background is split between both geology and environmental sciences, and on my own time

I love learning about flora and fauna which integrates well into my work. I was fortunate enough to be engaged in local First Nations culture in grade school and through boating along the coast with my parents.

As I went through university I really started to think about the inextricable connection between Indigenous Peoples and the environment and it became my goal to work in some form of Indigenous environmental management.

I'm absolutely loving my position with TRT so far as it is allowing me to learn the on-the-ground technical side of things as well as the higher-level strategic side of things. I'm looking forward to continuing this exciting work!



Family CONNECTIONS

by Louise Gordon &
Vivian Mahoney

The TRTFN has been a Matriarchal First Nations Society, comprised of Crow and Wolf Clans since time immemorial. It's all about going back to Tlingit Law now. The Matriarchs were the backbone of family. I was taught this from a very young age. My dad once said to me; "People have to learn how to treat the woman, because they spent the first 9 months of their life in the woman's cage, we were connected to the woman and the connection to the woman according to Tlingit law is very sacred and we need to respect that."

We have women in leadership! I believe that it is the best thing that could happen in this community. Timing is everything, and the time is right!

I believe that our Matriarchs have the power to put things back into balance for all of our people; undo a terrible damage that the residential school did to our people.

The men always had a place in our Nation, and the women had a place. However, when residential school came along, it stripped the men naked. They took everything from our men, they called them savages and told them they could not hunt and provide and do what came naturally to them. In Tlingit Law, they were the providers, they would go out and hunt, set up caches, and camps, dry meat and make a place for their families on the land. They would do this work together. But the residential school took that from them, and instead made them dig graves, as my uncle told us he had to do. Imagine how our men must feel. The girls grew up sewing and helping their mothers, and they were allowed to continue to sew at the school. So, in some way, that small skill was not destroyed in us girls. However, the residential school really damaged our people. We were strapped for speaking our language, strapped for practicing culture, strapped for looking or communicating with our siblings, shamed and humiliated.

It is time now to bring things back to balance. To heal our nation, heal our men, heal our women, heal our people.

We need to hold each other up now, we need to start from the basics, from our Law, and remember who we are, and what our roles are and hold each other up in a place of honor. We can't be pushed down anymore, there is only one way to go now and that is up.

"Strength and balance in all relationships requires each to respect, trust, care and share. As Tlingit, we stand together in a circle, and in this way we re connect to each other and all life." TRTFN Constitution 1993

The TRTFN community Matriarch group's mission is to stand together in a supporting role to prevent violence against First Nation women, men, youth, elders, partners, families. We shall follow the exemplary roles of traditional Matriarchs to recognize and respond to our community's needs and crises in a timely manner, and to give guidance where needed.





Wellness

Anne Campbell
Health & Social Manager

This has been a summer full of incredible experiences, strange weather, sad and somber moments and some fun times. This spring the Elders directed us to ensure TRT members get out on the land. Health and Social worked alongside staff and community partners like Discovery Helicopters, Nakina Call Yvonne Jack and TAC to make this happen. Thanks to our 3 Nations funders we received and processed over 40 individual proposals from people to help them with supplies to make their land-based summers a reality. That same funding also assisted 30 members to experience the Nakina River – some for the first time! Also thanks go to 3Nations and the First Nation Health Authority for their assistance to the TRTFN in honoring the memory of the Children Lost and to participate in the Lower Post Ceremony.

Other HS news and updates:

COVID 19 is still part of our every day reality and we continue to work with the local health team and within the new Public Health Orders. Taku River Tlingit people in Atlin have a very high vaccine rate – 83% have at least one dose and 76% two doses according to the First Nation Health Authority numbers. Watch for dates and times at the Drop-in Centre for help downloading and printing your vaccine passport. Or, please give us a call if you need help right away.

Across the province staff shortages are a reality and we are no exception. We still

have openings for a Youth Coordinator, Family Support Worker and a Home Care Nurse!

Welcome to Amelia Carlick our new Home Care worker and to Rachael Newhook who has agreed to be our new Community Health Representative!

Rodger Thorlakson, was recently promoted to Lands and Resources Manager. We thank him for all his efforts at HS and wish Rodger all the best in his new endeavour! The Centre for Culture, Drop-in Centre and Community Kitchen have been closed over the summer but watch posters and FB information for various events, programs, and lunches. These events should begin early October.

Youth Program

Como Lake Bike Trail Crew: Devin Wittig, Max Wesley, Luke Wesley, Levi Kohlman, and Isaiah Carlick worked hard all summer to make significant improvements to this incredible trail. I heard that the professional crew that came from the south to work on the trail for a couple of weeks were completely blown away by the skill and abilities of this young team! Way to go all of you! Bikes on order!

Devin is continuing his studies in Whitehorse over the winter but in Atlin on weekends to work with youth on various outdoor pursuits, projects and other endeavours. This group of youth also spent 5 days together at the Nakina Call developing their bushcraft and

learning about Tlingit Culture. They also found time for a Whitehorse field trip for paint ball!

Media Coordinator

Becky continues to be busy working with community members, youth, and TRTFN departments to help us create a visual presence. Becky has organized a community advisory committee to steer the production of this magazine so we continue to evolve and grow!

Trauma Training

Sixty participants including RCMP, Health Centre Staff, TRTFN staff, community counsellors and resource people along with community members worked together with the facilitators Dr. Patricia Vickers and Elder Dave Belleau to develop a shared understanding of the effects of trauma and the potential of new methods of healing. HS is working with Dr. Vickers and a team of staff and consultants to continue this work. Using methods learned in the first 3 day workshops, participants will spend 3 intensive weeks together over 5 weeks starting this January. The program is designed to assist participants to process their personal trauma. Please contact Donna Patrick at HS as soon as possible to indicate your interest. We also plan to hold another trauma information workshop (3 days) in winter/spring just for youth so will keep you posted on those dates.

Greenhouse

So many thanks to our greenhouse gardeners! Kim Morrison, June Jack, Dana Mills, Deb Michel, Rachael Newhook and Brittany Wesley all helped with the planting of the green house and the flower pots. Nicole Gordon and Linda Johnson were key to keeping it all alive and thriving to a successful harvest this fall. O&M provided the water and Wayne the pump. Thanks to you all! Looking forward to next year.

First Nations Labour Education Development Survey

The Atlin results of this survey have been posted on the TRTFN website. I encourage you to go there and check it out. The data is rich and informative. It can be used in a

number of ways and particularly to inform programs and services. The data also helps us to form questions to ask and discuss during our various public engagement activities.

Examples:

All participants report that they have access to traditional medicines.

All participants report that they depend on traditional foods for part of their food supply (8 out of ten say often or always).

This meat is widely shared with family, elders, community members and donated for community functions

Education support workers provided through the school or the First Nation, career counselling and tutoring were seen as the most lacking services and supports.

Participants also brought up that the following supports and services are needed:

Mental health supports, LGBTQ2+ supports
Tablet skills/literacy, Courses that cater to the elderly, Recreation opportunities and School photography.



Thank you to our dedicated staff and many volunteers who continue to serve the Nation above and beyond. Gunalcheesh.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

OCTOBER

This schedule subject to change. Keep your eyes and ears open about programming changes and additions

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>TFLC Afterschool Programs 3:30 - 4:30 (K-Grade 4) Contact: Jorge Llaca Buznego, 250-651-7739 Aikido for community Contact: Daniel Kempling 250-651-7739 ext. 300 Monthly Housing Committee Meeting (every 2nd Wednesday of the month) Drop in Centre times TBA Wednesday's 9am-4pm Culture is Healing, It keeps us strong. Making Mini Drums, moccasins, Mukaluks, Paddles and more.</p>					1	2
3 Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	4 kids Zumba 3:30pm-4:30pm @ TFLC	5 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	6 kids Aikido – 3:30pm-4:30pm Culture Center 9am - 4pm	7 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	8 Sheep Horn carving 1-5 & 7-9 At Carving Shed, snacks & Coffee Thanks Giving Luncheon. 12pm-1:30pm	9
		Carving Rattles At Carving Shed				
10 Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	11 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	12 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	13 kids Aikido – 3:30pm-4:30pm Culture Center 9am - 4pm	14 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC Parent work shop : Tutan Hit 10:30-12:30	15 OFFICES CLOSED	16
17 Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	18 Elders lunch resume on Mondays @ Tutan Hit – for dining in kids Zumba 3:30pm-4:30pm @ TFLC Sheep Horn carving 1-5 & 7-9	19 Diabetes Prevention Lunch resume Tuesdays @ Tutan Hit Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	20 kids Aikido – 3:30pm-4:30pm Beautiful Women Gathering 1-4pm Drop in at 5 mile Culture Center 9am - 4pm	21 Diabetes Prevention Lunch resume Thursdays @ Tutan Hit Parent work shop : Tutan Hit 10:30-12:30	22 Elders Tlingit History/ story Telling/ Reading time TBA	23
		Templates workshop Center of Culture 1-5pm				
24	25 kids Zumba 3:30pm-4:30pm @ TFLC	26 Diabetes Prevention Lunch Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	27 kids Aikido – 3:30pm-4:30pm Culture Center 9am - 4pm	28 Diabetes Prevention Lunch Parent work shop : Tutan Hit 10:30-12:30 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	29 OFFICES CLOSED	30
31 Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	Sheep Horn carving 1-5 & 7-9 At Carving Shed, snacks & Coffee					

CALENDAR of EVENTS NOVEMBER

This schedule subject to change. Keep your eyes and ears open about programming changes and additions

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Parent workshop : Tutan Hit 10:30-12:30 Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit 12pm - 1pm	5 Elders Tlingit History/ story Telling/ Reading time TBA	6
7  Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	8 kids Zumba 3:30pm-4:30pm @ TFLC Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm Drum making workshop 10am -4pm Lunch at Tutan Hit	9 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit 12pm - 1pm	10 kids Aikido – 3:30pm-4:30pm Culture Center 9am - 4pm	11 REMEMBRANCE DAY	12 OFFICES CLOSED	13 
14 Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	15 kids Zumba 3:30pm-4:30pm @ TFLC Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	16 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit 12pm - 1pm Making Drum Bags workshop 1-5pm	17 kids Aikido – 3:30pm-4:30pm	18 Community Aikido Diabetes Prevention 12-1pm Parent work shop : Tutan Hit 10:30-12:30	19	20 
21  Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	22 Building Our Spirit Strong 10am - 5pm Sacred Fire 10am-12pm Elders lunch Sheep Horn carving 1-5 & 7-9	23 Diabetes Prevention Healing Circle IRS Community Aikido Templates workshop Center of Culture 1-5pm	24 kids Aikido – 3:30pm-4:30pm Culture Center 9am - 4pm	25 Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit Parent work shop : Tutan Hit 10:30-12:30 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	26 OFFICES CLOSED	27 
28 Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	29 kids Zumba 3:30pm-4:30pm @ TFLC Constitutionally Driven Elders Meeting	30 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	TFLC Afterschool Programs 3:30 - 4:30 (K-Grade 4) Contact: Jorge Llaca Buznego, 250-651-7739 Aikido Contact: Daniel Kempling 250-651-7739 ext. 300 Monthly Housing Committee Meeting (every 2nd Wednesday of the month) Drop in Centre times TBA Wednesday's 9am-4pm Culture is Healing, It keeps us strong. Making Mini Drums, moccisins, Mukaluks, Paddles and more.			

CALENDAR of EVENTS DECEMBER

This schedule subject to change. Keep your eyes and ears open about programming changes and additions

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>Dec 1-15 Culture Center is open for Making Baby Regalia, X-Mas Decorations: Mini drums, Paddles, moccasins, mukaluks etc.</p> <p>Dec 1-16 Winter Activities; snow shoeing, kick sleds, snow boarding, X-Mas Programs: Food Hampers, X-mas Concert: Santa Clause & Presents.</p>			1	2 Parent work shop : Tutan Hit 10:30-12:30	3 Elders Tlingit History/ story Telling/ Reading time TBA JCM Meeting via Zoom	4 JCM Meeting via Zoom
5 JCM Meeting via Zoom Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	6 Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm kids Zumba 3:30pm-4:30pm @ TFLC	7 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit 12pm - 1pm	8  kids Aikido – 3:30pm-4:30pm Culture Center 9am - 4pm	9 Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit 12pm - 1pm Parent work shop : Tutan Hit 10:30-12:30	10 OFFICES CLOSED	11 
12 Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	13 Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm kids Zumba 3:30pm-4:30pm @ TFLC	14 Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit 12pm - 1pm Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	15 kids Aikido – 3:30pm-4:30pm Culture Center 9am - 4pm	16 Parent work shop : Tutan Hit 10:30-12:30 Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit 12pm - 1pm Community Aikido 7pm-8:15pm @ TFLC	17 	18
19  Aikido 4 pm-5:15pm @ TFLC	20 Elders lunch @ Tutan Hit – for dining in 12pm- 1pm	21 Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit 12pm - 1pm	22 	23 Diabetes Prevention Lunch @ Tutan Hit 12pm - 1pm	24 OFFICES CLOSED TRTFN OFFICES CLOSED	25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day TRTFN OFFICES CLOSED	27 	28	29 	30	31	



The right *People*

by Linda Johnson

The trauma workshop with Dr Patricia June Vickers and Elder Dave Belleau this fall was so refreshing and helpful. It was exactly what I needed. I've been to other trauma workshops, but I learned more out of this one than any of the others. I think they were just the right people. Their gentleness and understanding approach to the information we were learning was wonderful. You feel safe to share in the space they created. We were surrounded by people who understood us and our trauma. Everything came together so well in that short time.

I liked when Elder Dave stuck out his 'chicken chest', he was very funny. I would like to see more workshops like this and follow-ups. It was sad to see them go, even after three days you felt so connected to them. The way we connected as a community in those three days was so great, we should continue that way, and help those who need help. I feel so happy to have been a part of that process to build on my healing journey.

I want to encourage young people to be creative and practice culture, I love beading; I think it's a wonderful way to bring back good childhood memories. Also go to the land. The land on our territory is powerful and strong and can heal you. I am excited to go onto my trap line this season and connect with the land and listen and learn the lessons I need. I wish everybody a warm happy winter!



O&M and CAPITAL

Andy Carlick & Moses Track

We have made a lot of progress this summer and are happy to report that our four housing projects in five mile are well underway. Phase one of our fishing shed is almost done. We are planning and preparing to build a hockey rink in the 5 Mile area. It will be covered, along with penalty boxes and a warming shed with a bathroom. Our community has asked for a Gymnasium as part of our planning engagement. We have factored this into our planning for our future projects.

Our Fire Extinguisher training for all the staff went very well, thanks to the help of TRTFN Safety Manager Daniel Kemping. We have a new emergency trailer outfitted for our community's needs in case of emergency.

As we prepare for winter, we are doing much to prepare ourselves for what might be another heavy snow year. We are reminding our community members to clear their yards of vehicles that aren't running, and remove other things in the way before the snow arrives. When our machines come to work in your yards to bring you services, or emergency vehicles, we cannot be responsible for backing into your parked vehicles or toys that are sitting under the snow. If you require help to move things from entry and exit ways in your yard in preparation for winter, please see O&M staff and we will assist you as best we can.

We all have to do our part together to accomplish the work of the Nation.

If you are interested in jobs with O&M, we have projects that require skilled hands. See O&M management team for more information on these projects.

David Carlick and Randy Green are both taking water quality courses at University of Yukon. They both work at the treatment plant and are working toward their level 1 operator's ticket. We want to celebrate their dedication and the work they are doing. We are proud of these men who are adding to the skills that can be used in our Nation

Our community is strong when we stand together

We also welcome our new housing clerk Melanie Matchatis to our team.

As the season changes, we are thankful for all that we have accomplished during the summer months, we look forward to the winter and the warmth that being together brings. Our community is strong together, let us remember to be grateful for the natural gifts that the land brings to us all for our wellbeing and healing.

Welcome Margaret Rose Smith our Early Childhood Worker at TFLC



You can call me Maggie! I was here over 10 years ago working at TFLC as a supervisor. I also worked at the Hotel and was involved with the church.

I am working with the After School Program here at the Tlingit Family Learning Center. Spending time with this group of kids, playing with them, helping them with homework and spending one on one time with them is a joy.

For the last 10 years I have been working with seniors in a seniors facility. I missed working with kids.

I recently lost my younger son, it was incredibly difficult for me and my family. You feel that pain, even more when your family is separated. My daughter and grandson wanted to come back to Atlin to spend time with my older son Jared and be a family. Being here with my family and being together is so helpful for us in our grieving.

It feels so good to be back in community working with the kids at the TFLC.

Welcome Rachael Newhook our new Community Health Representative

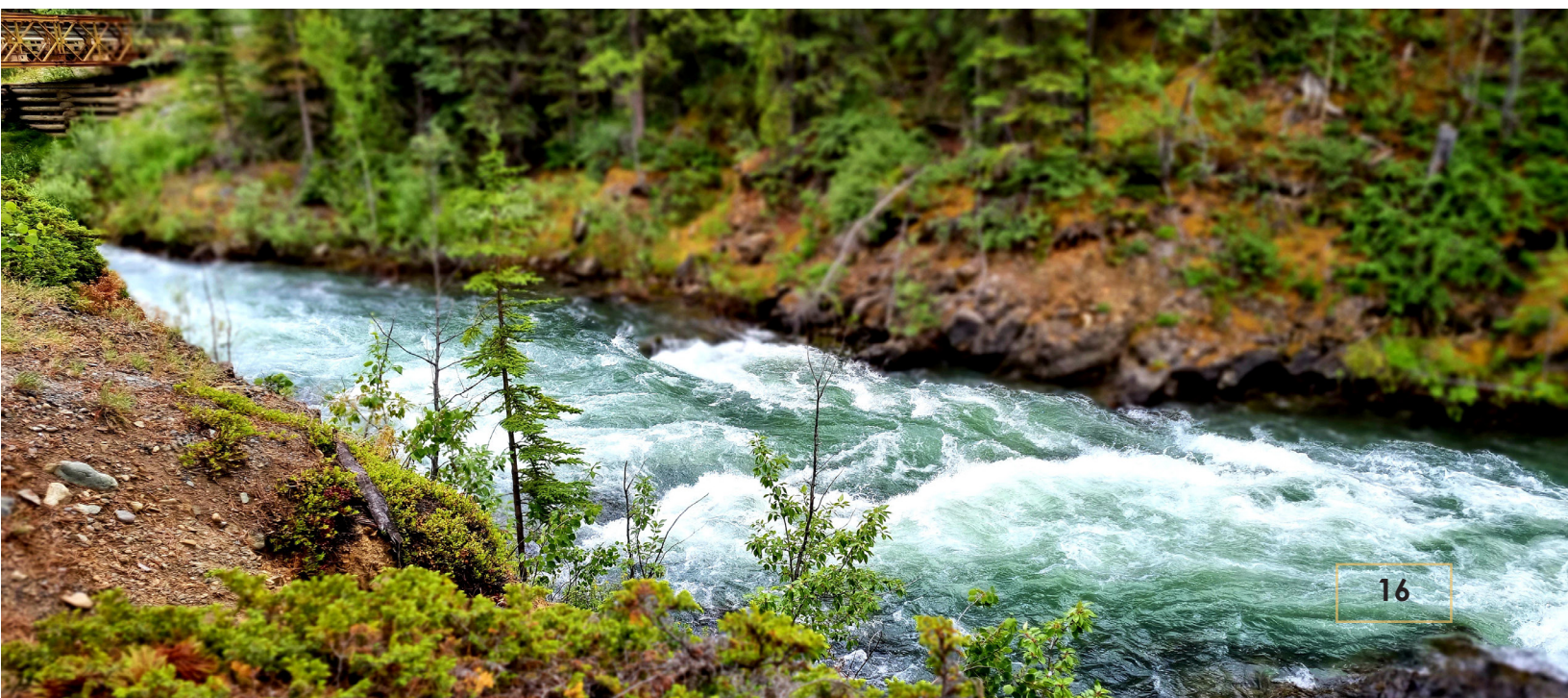


I am originally from Yellowknife. My good friend and sister Quinta asked me to come to Atlin to support and help out with her new baby, so in January I said yes, packed my bags and came to Atlin.

This summer I was around all the excitement of a new election, so I helped out where I could for the Aunties. As things progressed, I accepted the opportunity to work with H&S. I feel so accepted and as part of the family. I want to spend as much time with the Tlingit people in this territory as I can. My goal would be to start working toward getting my social work degree

and working with TRTFN building social programs. Being a people person, I love being a part of the healing journey of the people of this Nation.

I would like people to know that they can come in and talk to me, I am here to be of service.



Tatsatua

by Benjamin Louter

In the winter of 2019, I first heard that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans had been constructing new modular cabins on the Tatsatua River. Trevor Williams, who had spent time at the camp that summer snagging salmon, noticed a large stone adze blade that the building contractors had placed on the windowsill of the old cabin on the site. Rather than cease construction and conduct an archaeological assessment, (which is required under provincial law) the contractors continued building on the site. As part of the southern Taku watershed, this area falls within TRTFN traditional territory.

During the summer of 2020, Trevor Williams, Shauna Yeomans, myself and an archaeologist named Blake Evans visited the site to try to figure out what had happened. From the moment that we touched down at the site, it was very apparent that we were standing on a heavily used cultural area. Flakes of black obsidian glittered on the pathways that connected the new modular cabins with the old log cabin. Obsidian is a type of volcanic glass that was (and is) highly prized for its ability to hold an edge. Surgeons today still use obsidian blades in their scalpels because they can hold an edge that is much finer than steel.

Unfortunately, due to the earthmoving activities that had taken place at the site, much of the original context was lost. That first field season we mapped out the location of every stone tool on the camp site where the DFO cabins are located. We also explored the trail networks that radiated out from the camp, and unsurprisingly, found groves of culturally modified pine trees. Running short on time and realizing that there was a much deeper history at this site than what was visible on the surface, we made plans to return.

This past June the same team went back to Tatsatua, but this time Brittany Wesley came as well, as she had just started as a Heritage Guardian. Brandon Gray, an archaeologist who holds a permit to work in the subarctic region also came along. This time we had a permit that would allow us to dig beneath the surface, which would provide a better sense of the depth of time that Taku River Tlingit people had been using this site.

Just like the first year, the team came across new artifacts after just a few minutes on the ground. Over the course of a week we found several intact stone tools, hundreds of flakes, and cultural sites on both sides of the river.

Immediately adjacent to the newly constructed cabins we found a hearth with burnt mammal bones and stone flakes scattered all around it. We took turns screening through soils and sediments and picked out any fragments of obsidian or bone that we came across. The exciting thing about the burnt bone fragments is that they can be accurately radiocarbon dated. Carbon 14 is present in all living organic compounds, and it has a predictable rate of decay. Radiocarbon dating essentially measures the remaining amount of Carbon 14 left in a sample, compared with its known rate of decay. The key here is that the sample needs to be organic.

Because of the acidic soils of the subarctic, normally most organic remains deteriorate over a few hundred years, leaving behind stone tools and fragments. This is useful, because these dating methods are undeniable proof of the use and occupation of these lands by Indigenous peoples. This of course is no surprise to TRT people, but this kind of research can support the creation of protected areas, conservancies, or to advance negotiations with other First Nations.

We are still awaiting the results from the lab, but I'm eager to know how old the site at Tatsatua is. My hope is that work like this will demonstrate to federal agencies like DFO that they cannot employ a 'business as usual' approach to development on TRT traditional territory. After extensive negotiation, DFO agreed to cover the cost of the archaeology work at Tatsatua as well as work in future years.

TRTFN cultural and archaeological sites need to be acknowledged, protected, and respected, and this project is just one step in that direction.



If you are interested in participating in archaeology, please email me at wildlife.heritage.coor@gov.trtfn.com or call me at 250-204-2939



TRADITIONAL Gifts

by Joanne Williams

In the old days, Tlingits did not sleep all night. Our ancestors would get up after 5 hours of sleep and sew and do creative things. After working for 3 to 4 hours at night, they would go back to sleep. I believe I know why a lot of Tlingits have trouble sleeping, it might be because we are supposed to be creating and making something.

Let's get our sewing and hobbies back to our people.

If you are interested in mentoring in the traditional art of tanning moose and bear hide please contact me or the band office. I was taught by Grandma Elizabeth Nyman.

250 651 7664

Contact Joanne for information about medicines



Artist Spotlight

Raven & Creek Mother

by Jared Kane



Kashan Tlet was a young boy who was loved by a very wise and knowledgeable Creek Mother named Tawchalla. Each summer Kashan Tlet would look forward to summertime with his Creek Mother, spending their days on the shores of Klukshu Creek.

Kashan Tlet fondly remembers when Creek Mother got him to bring in his first salmon. She proudly instructed him to walk about the village showing his prized salmon, nearly the same size as the little boy!

As time went on and they both grew older, Creek Mother would pass on stories of her salmon relatives, love for the land, and passion for artistry to the young man. Kashan Tlet fondly remembers the long nights spent at her sewing tables, the excitement of craft sales and being her model trying on her many creations made of trapped furs and home tanned skins.

On March 28, 2021, during the creation of this panel, I suddenly lost my Great-Grandmother Sadie Brown (Tawchalla). Sadie was a member of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation and was born in the Village of Hutchi, near Haines Junction. Sadie played a major role in my life and became the drive and influence behind this piece.

Big Gunatchéesh to my mentor Keith Wolfe-Smarch for his guidance while working on this piece.



Visit the Museum of Vancouver to view works created by the 2020 Scholarship award recipients until November 14, 2021 before relocating to the Vancouver International Airport. <https://museumofvancouver.ca/indigeneity-rising>

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Harshit Sharma Front Desk Administrative Assistant

My name is Harshit Sharma, I work as the front desk Administrative Assistant for Taku River Tlingit First Nation. I thoroughly enjoy my work here and being a part of the Atlin community and Tlingit people.

My family and I have been very blessed to be part of the Tlingit community for these few months. To serve among the Tlingit people, to share my skills and time and do my part is an honor.



Welcome Ocean Breeze

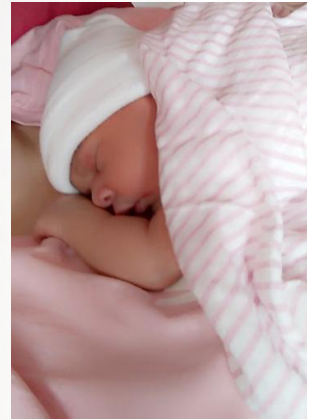
Ocean Breeze was born on September 29th. My two princesses are absolutely doing excellent. Tsiinii Mal & Naani Deb are proud and excited to have this addition to our family.

We wish to express our thanks to all our supports from FNHA, the nurses, doctors at WGH, Atlin HC, TRTFN. Gunalcheesh/Haawa. XOXO

What a perfect moment to see Great grandma, Grandma, mom Brittany and Baby Ocean, four generations all together.



Deborah Yeomans





TFLC

Jorge Llaca Buznego, PhD.
Education Manager

We are so happy to report that we have increased capacity at the Tlingit Family Learning Center. When I started, we had Roberta working very dedicatedly, and only a handful of kids coming to our day care. We have since increased our staff and welcomed many kids to our center throughout the day.



Laura Lubben, Roberta Vaneltsi, Grace Sudlow, Maggie Smith & Kanika Sharma are all wonderful with the kids creating a safe and happy environment for them. TFLC also welcomes Daniel Kemping who does Aikido with the kids on Wednesdays and Christine Ziegler who offers Zumba on Mondays. We provide transportation as well with our bus service.



We are excited to welcome the new babies in our community, we are ready and able to support parents who wish to use our services here in our baby room. We continue to provide a marvelous nutrition program. Providing healthy meals and snacks to your kids while they are here. We hope soon to add traditional Tlingit meals to our menu.

We are following the Northern Health regulations with regards to Covid 19. We understand that some people are vaccinated others are not. We ask that all people refrain from visiting the TFLC if they are sick and self-isolate if you suspect that you are ill. Let us all do our part to keep our community safe.



TFLC is still seeking interested Tlingit Language speakers who wish to teach and speak with our staff and kids at our facility. We welcome Elders and facilitators who have cultural knowledge and things to share with us.

As we enter the fall and winter seasons, we wish everyone joy, blessings and good health.





Emergency Management

Daniel Kempling
Health Safety and Emergency Preparedness Manager

How quickly a summer passes! I began my employment here in the first week of June with a mandate from Leadership to develop a modern Health and Safety program as well as to assist my fellow team members in deepening our capacity in Emergency Preparedness.

For those who I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting, a little bit about myself: originally a BC boy, I have lived and worked for the past six years in the Peace River area of Northern Alberta. Most recently, I worked as Safety Coordinator and Director of Emergency Management for the County of Northern Lights based in Manning, AB. Our family leads somewhat of a homesteading lifestyle there- we have a small sheep and goat operation on a 10 acre farm just north of Peace River. My wife and youngest daughter remain there while I search for a home here in Atlin.

The discipline of Occupational Health and Safety is, at its core, a pact between leadership, management and the entirety of staff and supporting contractors. This pact is meant to ensure that we are safe from harm, able

to enjoy a dignified work experience, and maintain compliance with federal and provincial legislation.

Some of our first initiatives towards this end include: Standard First Aid training for staff and citizens, the establishment of a Health and Safety Committee, evacuation and fire extinguisher training, and developing a regular schedule of building and equipment inspections. Starting in mid-October, a number of our citizens will undertake training for Occupational First Aid Level 3, an intense 2-week course that gives the graduates the skills to work as medics in remote work environments.

I am also a martial arts instructor, holding a sixth-degree black belt in the art of Aikido. Classes are now being offered upstairs at the Learning Centre, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. It's a system that is accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels. First class is on the house; come check it out!

Gunalcheesh.





NAKINA

Call

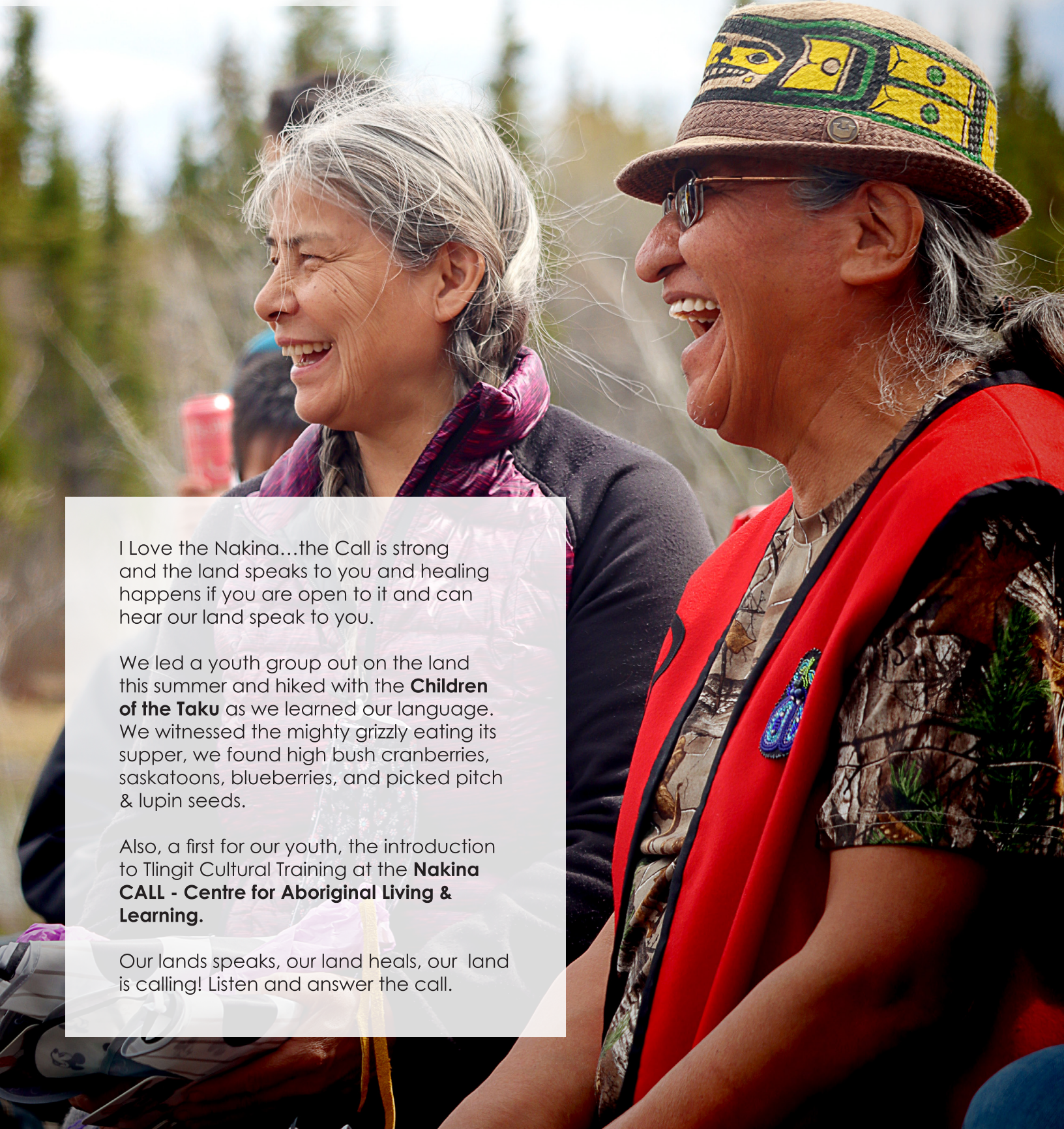
Wayne Carlick Cultural Coordinator

I Love the Nakina...the Call is strong and the land speaks to you and healing happens if you are open to it and can hear our land speak to you.

We led a youth group out on the land this summer and hiked with the **Children of the Taku** as we learned our language. We witnessed the mighty grizzly eating its supper, we found high bush cranberries, saskatoons, blueberries, and picked pitch & lupin seeds.

Also, a first for our youth, the introduction to Tlingit Cultural Training at the **Nakina CALL - Centre for Aboriginal Living & Learning.**

Our lands speaks, our land heals, our land is calling! Listen and answer the call.





CARVING WORKSHOP with Wayne Carlick at the Center for Culture
For Workshops visit the Center for Culture for info **Monday - Friday 10:30 - 4pm / 5pm - 9pm**



Our Story

by Loni Jack

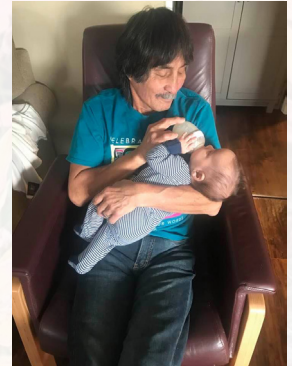
My dad Bryan is a #ResidentialSchoolSurvivor In the first picture here you will see my siblings and I with my dad many many moons ago. So thankful that my children and I did not have to attend residential school and that my dad was able to be a dad to me, and I am able to be a mother to my children.

It is so sad to think that it has taken all these years for anybody to notice even think about what happened to families and how it has been so detrimental to our people throughout the generations.

If you don't think it's an absolute injustice and is completely disgusting what the churches and the government did then you are part of the problem. You've had plenty of information to educate yourself especially now with the internet. I was the first generation in my dad's family to not go to residential school.

I hope that people take this day and think about what happened in their dear country not many years ago.

Ignorance is not bliss . Next time you tell an "Indian" story, please tell mine, of how hard my family works, how amazing we are, & how we are working to build community.



Ignorance is not bliss.



I just wanted to give a big shout out to Wayne Carlick who sent me down a flag for the warriors walk. "Táku Heeni Lingit" The Ta' seems to say in Lingit "King Salmon" ku "cove" Heeni is "river" ... and Lingit is "human" so -Taku River Lingit . Most people know our first nations as the Taku River Tlingit First Nation in English.

Táku Heeni Lingit is appropriate. Wayne... Gunalcheesh my Lingit brother! I appreciate you and I am beyond moved that you have taken the time to make and hand paint this flag and have it sent down to me and sharing your personal experience with residential school with me. I appreciate you and your knowledge.

I was asked by the cultural support at the Kamloops grave sites to ask the burial grounds if there are any Táku Heeni Lingit children that are lost to come home with me back to our nation. We're supposed to say out loud to the grave site "I'm here for you Táku Heeni Lingit children. Come home with me, you are not lost come with me and I'll take you home." After that I make my way home and bring them to our nations grave site and ask the children to stay here and tell them they are home.

Gunalcheesh
#215 #KamloopsResidentialSchool

Amanda Mack



We will Overcome

by Kaushee O'Shea



I grew up in Atlin. The Nation was different then, all we needed was one person to say we were going on a picnic or a gathering, and everyone would jump in their boats and across the lake we all would go. That's a good memory I have, I must have been about 6 years old. It would have been in the summertime when I came home from Residential School.

I spent 7 horrible years at the Lower Post Residential School. They took me from my home when I turned 5 years old. Took me away from my mother. I remember they said to us, if we didn't go our parents would go to jail. I remember going to the school and then coming back and spending the summertimes here, and every time I came back I had another brother or sister. There are 9 of us siblings. But my brother John and I were the only ones that were taken for a long time.

When I was younger, before I was taken, I was just learning to speak my language, I could understand it. I remember, while at school, my dad's brother passed away on the lake back at home, the nuns were trying to tell me what happened in English, and I didn't understand. So they called my brother John to come tell me in Tlingit. Even so, they punished him for speaking the language, and they made him kneel in the snow.

At Christmas I remember my mum Kaushee sent me a card and she put 5 bucks in it for

me as a present. In those days, 5 bucks was a lot of money. The nuns would open our cards, they saw the gift and told me that I had to donate my 5 bucks from my mum. My parents also sent me a little doll, and someone got jealous of it and took it away from me. So I ended up with nothing that Christmas, except that card. I was very sad. At Christmas time I tend to have a hard time, and close to the beginning of school as well. Its triggering for me even now. The abuse that we received at the school was just so terrible. I was afraid that the priests would come into the room at night, so I would tuck my blankets right under me to try to protect myself, to make it harder for them to get to me. Even to this day, I have a hard time speaking up, because I don't want to be hurt again. Those of us who experienced the torment of these schools, know all too well that we try to protect ourselves all the time. We are always on guard. Its exhausting.

I remember coming home and asking why my dad was drinking. Well, it was because his kids were taken away. The ripple effects of the school, broke the mother and fathers and hurt the family.

My mother also went to residential school, she was mistreated so badly, and when she was of age to come home, she had a difficult time relearning how to live freely again, but she did. She taught me how to cook and how to sew and a great many other things. She was a strong woman. My mother separated from her first marriage and for many years she cared for us kids and made do the best way she could. My mother remarried a good man from Montreal, Dad Harris, who was kind to us kids. Kaushee's Place in Whitehorse was named after my mum.

This summer the band went down to Lower Post, the residential school was dismantled and we had ceremony and burned parts of the school to heal together from all the terrible things that happened there. It was my first time going to Lower Post since coming

home. I didn't want to return to that place on the bus. I remember being very young, maybe 7 or 8 going there on the bus. As we were coming into Lower Post there was a lamp post and as we passed we saw that there was a young girl who had hung herself. As we passed the nun in the bus said to me; " See, that will happen to you if you don't behave." That memory haunts me to this day, so I refused to go on the bus back to that place. I decided I would go with my granddaughter in her car, surrounded with love.

I am asking my great grand baby Hannah to teach me the Tlingit language. It makes me feel like crying to know that I will learn my language from one so innocent , who loves me, and will not get upset with me, she will be kind and understanding. Even John asked if Hannah could teach him as well. They tried to break us, but we are healing. We are strong and we will overcome.

As I drove my grandmother to Lower Post, I had some moments of anger, denial, and hurt, but also love, acknowledgment and appreciation.

I could not imagine being a child, with all your siblings and cousins and friends on a big scary bus and being swept away from your family. Never knowing if you'll see your mom, grandma, grandpas, aunties, or uncles again. Some of these children, they did not know how far away home is, but still some decided to set forth and start heading in their home direction trying to run away from the atrocities. Some lost and never to be seen again.

It's all so real and raw with the findings of mass graves, and listening to the accounts from our elders, witnessing our daily struggles. What I do know, is that I am so grateful to my Grandma and her brother John, these two idols in my life. It is because of them that I strive so hard daily to be a humble, loving, supportive, culturally driven, Lingit speaking force to be reckoned with. Today was beautiful. They did not kill us. We are still here.

Caitlin O'Shea



Photo Credit: Manu Kegenhoff

JOURNEY TO THE TLINGIT LAND

by Joan Jack



When I began working with the TRTFN in the Lands department, we had little money. The only Tlingit people working in the band office at the time was Wayne Carlick (Drug and Alcohol Counselor) Louise Gordon (Band manager) and Lucile Jack was also working in Lands, all the other staff was non-indigenous.

In my home town in Manitoba, back in the day, there were 2000 people on reserve so coming to Tlingit territory and seeing so few indigenous workers at the band office was a surprise to me. I was an early bird; I went into work every morning at 7am. I would put the light on in the lands office, put the coffee on and wait. Jackie Williams would see the light and would come over and have coffee. Soon, after that, Edward Jack would show up, then Jackie Carlick. All different people would see the light on and come into the office. We would sit for hours every day and chat with each other and I would listen. For two years I did this.

One day I decided that I would read my mail to them and ask their opinions on the issues of the day on my desk. I would read and listen to their advice and opinions. For example, the elders would say, "Joan, I think you should go to this meeting, and I think you should take Eddo with you." Because I was inquisitive, I would ask, "Why should I take Eddo?" The response would be, "well because Eddo knows the most about that thing you're going to talk about." So it was, I developed this daily interaction with any citizens who would drop in. Deep friendships and understanding evolved visiting like that. Mrs. Elisabeth Nyman, I remember would drop by too.

When you learn to listen to the people and are not afraid to follow their lead wonderful things

begin to happen. The Elders and members would approve so much of the work I did, even to this day; much of that work is foundational, because it is what the people wanted. The constitution was created in this manner. For 3 years I sat with the Elders and community members of TRTFN, Jenny Jack would facilitate the discussion and I would hold the pen. In the briefing period, I would listen to the people and turn their words into something they could relate to. I would challenge Jenny with questions she needed to ask her people. At the end of this process 35 people signed the Constitution that was representative of their laws, who they are and needed to be as a people. The Elders were clear to tell me when asked if The Elders are the decision makers, they replied, "No, the middle people make the decisions, because they have to live with their own decisions, they have to ask us for advice, and think about what we think, but they have to live with their own decisions. Why would we have to make decisions and die and leave people to live with our decisions? Don't avoid responsibility."

After working for the TRTFN Lands, I took a break and wrote a book, and then decided that I would create a program I called the Aboriginal World View Seminar. I am a businesswoman it's who I am. So, for four years, my husband Bryan Jack and I did this seminar in Whitehorse, Vancouver and Manitoba, and many people attended and benefited from it. So many of the relationships that I made through this program I still have today. People showed me their pain and I respected the people and the vulnerable spaces that were created.

That was such a powerful and amazing time in my life.

Imagine a canoe, holding all the Tlingit people, including those they have married or adopted, we are all in one canoe. Our place in that canoe and our responsibilities in that canoe is the discussion that we need to have. The discussion should be who is sitting where, and why? What does sitting there mean, what are the individual responsibilities to the whole? This discussion should be had within a Tlingit philosophical framework that will strengthen the self-governing agenda that we should be aspiring to.

The knowing of who we are and what we are capable of is so important. With knowing who we are, we will be able to create a space where we can invent a new possibility of who is Tlingit is today.

TRTFN JOINT CLAN MEETING



DEC 3RD – 5TH

Where: Virtual via Zoom & Telephone

Telephone: 778-907-2071
Meeting ID: 962 3008 0052
Passcode: 12345

Chairpersons: Spokesperson Thom, Judy Gingell, Kirk Cameron

No matter how far we are from our ancestor's homeland, we are all connected spiritually through our ancestors and our future generations.



We hope to see members of the community from all age groups join, from all clans, and from all cities across Canada, United States, and wherever you may be residing.

In Unity & Solidarity,



TENTATIVE AGENDA

DEC 3RD

MORNING: Elders' Meeting
AFTERNOON: Citizens' Concerns
(we encourage youths to have first priority)

DEC 4th & 5th

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES:

- ☆ Corporations
- ☆ Internal & External Governance
- ☆ Administration
- ☆ Operations & Maintenance
- ☆ Health & Safety
- ☆ Education/ Tlingit Family Learning Centre (TFLC)
- ☆ Health & Social
- ☆ Lands & Resources

CANNOT ATTEND OR WANT TO SHARE YOUR CONCERNS AHEAD OF TIME?

EMAIL:

EVENTSADMIN.CONTRACTOR@GOV.TRTFN.COM

OR CALL:

778-402-0174
(THAO – EVENTS COORDINATOR)

YOUR CONCERNS WILL BE ADDED FOR DECEMBER 3RD.



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation

