



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT  
First Nation



SIGÓOWU KÍSWAS!  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

# TAAHUU

TAKU RIVER TLINGIT  
First Nation

Winter Issue 2020/21

## Looking FORWARD

by Izaiah Carlick

ALSO INSIDE

Season's Greetings  
Rivers to Home  
Beaver & Porcupine



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 and questions and things that you would like to see added in each issue (hss.youth@trtfn.gov.ca).

Editorial Note: After the first two editions of the Health and Social Newsletter, TRTFN Managers decided to create a new publication that includes all TRTFN departments.

Readers can expect changes and improvements with each issue as we learn and develop this prototype. We look forward to your feedback.

Also, please visit our amazing website at [www.trfn.com](http://www.trfn.com) for more information about TRTFN and to watch the cool, local youth-produced videos!

**PO Box 132 - Atlin BC, V0W 1A0**  
**Phone: +1 250-651-7900**  
**Fax: +1 250-651-7909** Email: [trfn@gov.trfn.com](mailto:trfn@gov.trfn.com)



**TAKU RIVER TLINGIT**  
First Nation



**Article Contributors**

Rodger Thorlakson, Wayne Carlick, Ryan LaPointe, Ben Louter, Charmaine Jack, Sue Thorn, Jorge Llaca Buznego, Andy Carlick, Izaiah Carlick, Dana Mills, Donna Patrick, Vernon Williams, Louise Gordon, Anne Campbell, James Williams, Robyn Moore, Svenja Weber, Donna Jim, Chantelle Simpson, K'èdukà Jack, Pamela Jim

**Photography Provided by**

Debra Michel  
Wayne Carlick  
Manu Keggenhoff  
Izaiah Carlick

**Layout & Design**

Rebecca Law

**Copy Editor**

Fiona McGlynn

This magazine may not be reproduced in part or in whole without the written consent of the publisher TRTFN

Adeline Pamela Bessie Jim

Ashley has done such a beautiful job with my granddaughter, I'm very proud of her.

She handled her pregnancy very well, and labour and delivery.

She was so awesome to bring this little baby into the world.

Adeline was born Oct. 13, 2020 at 10:05 p.m. She was one day late. It's a Jim Girls thing. Lol.

She was 21" long and weighed 8 lbs 4.5. oz.

I am a very proud and blessed grandma and mother of my two beautiful ladies, Ashley and Adeline.

Welcome home little Ishkataan

by Pamela Jim







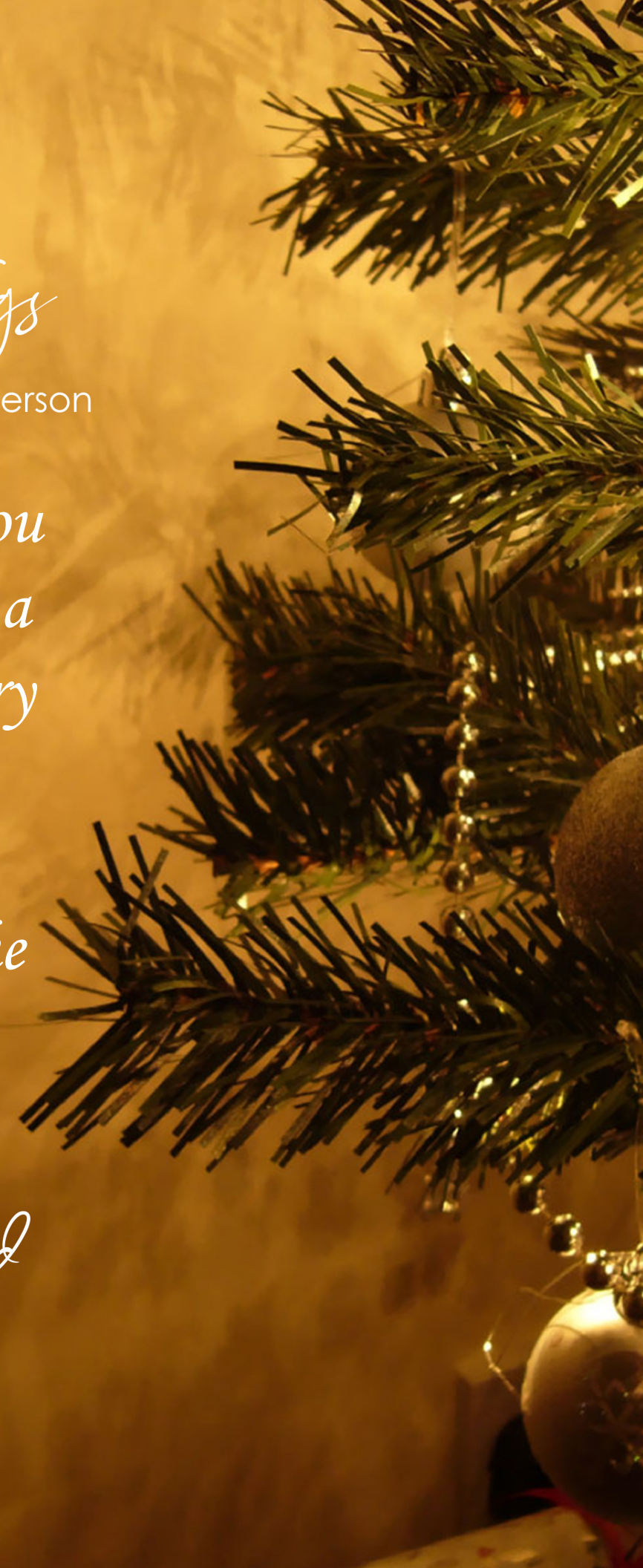
*Seasons Greetings*

From your Spokesperson

*I pray that you  
all will have a  
safe and merry  
Christmas.*

*See you in the  
New Year.*

*John Ward*





# James Williams

## Wolf Clan Leader



### What is it like to be a Wolf Clan leader?

It's difficult because I wish I had paid more attention to my older brother Jackie Williams when he was the Wolf Clan leader. When I took over, I always heard my people say, "We don't have a voice." So, as the Wolf leader, I try to give their voice back, to tell them to organize the meeting, and I listen. This way I can take their words to leadership and get their collective voice heard.

The people are the ones that have power, the power to make change and make a difference.

### What advice do you have for our youth and young adults as the year comes to a close?

Listen, listen to your Elders. Go visit them and learn. We have a lot to offer. Don't wait 'till we are not here anymore. Take the opportunities now to sit with us and share together.

# LISTEN

### Moving forward in 2021

As leaders of TRTFN, we also have to start listening to the people. Not just at Clan meetings or JCMs, anytime. It could be just walking by on the street or meeting someone at home or at the office, anywhere. Listen. Don't push people away. Especially those you may think are lost or hurting, or addicted. Be open to meeting people where they are at and listening to them. You never know, it may be the only time they have courage to speak their truth or speak honestly to you.

Get out and start talking to one another. Break the cycles of indifference and start listening and sharing with each other. Be willing to learn something new about your neighbor and accept each other. Don't keep saying, "I'm too busy!" Stop and realize that we are only as busy as we choose to be. Make the time to connect and get to know each other every day.

# Community Health Representative

## Rodger Thorlakson



As the Community Health Representative (CHR) I am dedicated to positively impacting the individuals of the TRTFN community as a whole by working with health care providers and the community to educate and provide information and support.

Our information supports you and your family, and continues to show our holistic approach to health and health care.

As the CHR I perform a wide variety of consulting and support services to our people that encourage prevention, and intervention when necessary.

Up-to-date information and resources from our department at Health and Social promote

healthy lifestyles through education, immunization and clinics. I also coordinate and monitor the homes of our clients-in-need and the community to identify the required resources and interventions.

As 2021 approaches, we will continue to research and produce community relevant resources to ensure that our community members understand and appreciate the information being provided.

We care for you and we hope our service has impacted you positively this year.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Stay safe!

*Rodger Thorlakson*



### HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WRITING A WILL?

A last will and testament is beneficial to anyone who wishes to dictate how their assets will be distributed after they pass away instead of leaving it up to the court.

You should consider a Last Will In Testament if you:

- ◆ Get married, have children or separate from a spouse
- ◆ Have monetary assets, such as investments or savings you wish distribute to family or friends
- ◆ Own property or a business

Please Contact Community Health Representative at  
**250 651 7900 ext 301**  
hss.chr@gov.trtfn.com

### DO You or Someone You Know Have A CRIMINAL RECORD?

### Need help getting a RECORD SUSPENSION?

All information will be kept **Private & Confidential**

The Community Health Representative Will help you understand the Process of getting a record suspension

If you have any questions, please contact CHR for more information

**Phone: 250 -651- 7900 ext 301**  
**Email: hss.chr@gov.trtfn.com**

◆ Please remember to return all Gas Cards to the H&S Department or the drop-box at ATELP



# JOB BOARD & OPPORTUNITIES

**Position:** Receptionist / Administrative Assistant

**Department:** Health & Social

**Wage:** \$20.52 to 24.62 per hour dependent upon experience and knowledge

**Status:** Permanent, Full-time Position in Atlin BC

**Closing Date:** Until Filled

**Position:** Administrative Assistant

**Department:** Education (TFLC)

**Wage:** \$20-24 per hour dependent upon experience and knowledge

**Status:** Full-time Position (72hr pay period) in Atlin BC

**Closing Date:** Until Filled

**Position:** Early Childhood Educator

**Department:** Education (TFLC)

**Wage:** \$25-29 per hour dependent upon experience and knowledge

**Status:** Full-time Position (72hr pay period) in Atlin BC

**Closing Date:** Until Filled

*Check notice boards for more information and available positions with TRTFN*

## Local Atlin Artist Spotlight



Tlingit Artist: Pamela Jim



**Wm. B. Wallis**  
Artist  
Wood burning in History

250-651-2259  
250 Green Street  
Box 57, Atlin, BC V0W 1A0



# Vernon Williams

## Crow Clan Leader

**What is it like to occupy the position of Crow Clan leader?**

It is my job to monitor the well-being of the community, listen to the Crow members, share their thoughts with leaders, and help bring their visions for a safe, healthy, and thriving community to reality. I am proud to be a Clan leader, because my dad Jackie Williams was a Clan leader. I respected the man he was.

**What is the most important part of your job to you?**

Being a caring person is an important part of this job. Not judging people, but accepting them where they are at. To be a voice for others means listening and learning and loving the people. It's important for me to truly care about my people to do this job.

## EDUCATION

**What would you like to see going forward in 2021?**

Education is so very important. I would like to see everybody be a part of this Nation. If we all accept and learn together, this is how we will grow. It is so very important to have respect and exercise respect for each other. To become educated is the first step in knowing how to communicate and listen and express that respect.

Education is powerful, it allows you to lift the blinders on your eyes. Education allows you to take passion and filter it constructively without hurting or harming relationships.

You become free and confident to have conversations with people who are different from you, who have different ideas. Education teaches you how to have respect for people. You can educate others without fighting and you can learn the power of listening without needing to speak.

**Lessons from Grandma Nyman**

Before you start pointing your finger at people for what they do, bend it a little bit so it's pointing back at you.

The blood that's in your veins, you cannot change it. So be respectful to each other. We are all human beings.

May you all enjoy the Christmas holidays and have a safe and healthy New Year.



# Respect Our Natural Resources

by Charmaine Thom Manager of Lands Resources & Fisheries



We all have much to celebrate as we end this year. In our Lands Department, the Tlatsini Indigenous and Protected Conserved Areas (TIPCA) team has begun identifying areas of consideration for additional protection. The hydro expansion project

is a priority, and the Fisheries Department is doing more sampling work. Our numbers are way up from previous years and we are thrilled. The Wildlife and Heritage departments are working on their policies and we have a new land guardian, Hanes Straff, that has just joined our team to oversee the Land Guardian Program.

In January 2021, we will be starting our strategic planning. This will allow us to get all the moving parts into one area and understand who's doing what and where.

It will also help ensure that individual tasks compliment other work that's being done. This will help clarify what everyone is currently working on, allowing us to be very productive on the TIPCA team.

We just hired a new mining engagement officer who oversees all the mining applications, allowing our lands engagement officer, Christine Ziegler, to work on some GIS work that needs to be done for mapping.

We are so thrilled to welcome Sue Carlick to our TIPCA team, who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge that we wouldn't otherwise have. Her input is valuable. We are so thankful to have that traditional knowledge from previous years come aboard.

## I am so grateful for my team

I would like to acknowledge the members of the team, Robin Urquhart, Kim Heinemeyer, Sue Carlick and our lead negotiator Chantelle Schulz.

This is great group of people to work with, as we serve to add additional protection to our land. I am also so very grateful for my team at Lands. Everyone in this department has served our community with passion and dedication.

As we enter the holiday season, I would like to encourage everyone to be safe and healthy. I serve on the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) team. We continue to be vigilant and make plans to support our community, in the event that we have cases of COVID-19 in our small and vulnerable community. I would like to encourage people to be careful and thoughtful of each other and our resources. We want to discourage any recreational land use currently. No hunting, fishing, or recreation land use at this time.

If the road closes it would be inconvenient to hunt displaced animals like our moose and caribou due to recreational vehicles. We want to be able to use our resources and have them closer to us.

Usually this is not an issue and we warmly welcome visitors to our territory. But we ask you to be kind and considerate of our people during this pandemic.

I'd like to wish you all a warm a wonderful Christmas season. Stay safe and healthy.



# Administration & Finance

My name is Robyn and I have been working as a receptionist for the admin building and supporting Finance for the Taku River Tlingit First Nation since August. I was born and raised in the Yukon, so it wasn't a big move for me. I have been really enjoying the beauty of Atlin and the kind community.

It has been a busy last few months learning the position and meeting all the people I get the opportunity to work with. Lately, I have been busy processing invoices, updating job postings, processing mail, directing calls and emails, assisting with filing in Finance and assisting with payroll.

I have taken up the project of updating TRTFN's employee timesheets from paper to electronic in the hopes of saving time and reducing errors. A bonus of

the electronic timesheets is that they are contactless, which is important during these times.

### Administrative Message:

TRTFN is a very busy place that is constantly undergoing change. There have been many job opportunities lately.

Job posting are usually posted at the entrance of both the Admin and HSS buildings, the Atlin Trading Post, and the Food Basket, though they aren't always up to date due to size of the bulletin board and location.

If you are interested in working for TRTFN you can call 250-651-7900 or email [admin.reception@gov.trtfn.com](mailto:admin.reception@gov.trtfn.com). Robyn will be able to provide you with an update on current job opportunities and will accept resumes.

## LOVE OF NUMBERS by Sue Thorne



Some people like math because it seems more black and white than other subjects. The answer is right or it isn't.

I love to tell our young people, that in terms of a job that will always need to be done, finance is always needed. From small businesses to big organizations, this job is transportable to any occupation, or any province.

The numbers never change. It's why I love it so much. It's infinite and I find accountability is always a good thing and numbers help us get there faster.

It is so important for young people to learn from an early age to manage their own finances. Understanding the basics of money and planning for the future is a skill that we sometimes only take seriously when we are older. Do not fear the numbers. They are consistent.

There's an awful lot of things beyond our control in this life, but numbers to me, they are satisfying.

You need it in carpentry, in building a house, in sciences, in finance and in art. I have spent 23 years in this beautiful place. I started working with TRTFN in 2009. It's been an amazing journey.

We in Finance are all working hard and trying to make sure that TRTFN's money is managed well and safe and accounted for properly. Communication is key for us to do our jobs well.

Things happen and we have to navigate situations. But with polite and clear communication we can pilot the waters as a team and enjoy the journey.

May you have a safe, happy and healthy New Year.



# OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE WITH ANDY CARLICK



It's been quite uncommon weather this winter. It was a shock to wake up to four feet of snow in one night.

Our department experienced quite a challenge to get all the equipment out and get our services to the community.

Thankfully, after a few days and with all hands on deck, we got on top of the snow and managed to get everyone back on the road again.

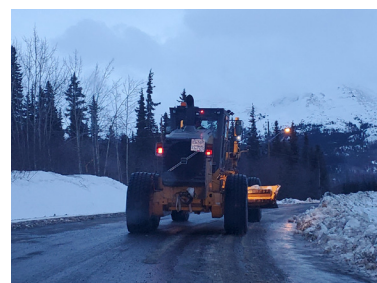
We have learned many lessons this year. One such lesson is how to deal with such unpredictable weather. We learned what works and what does not.

We are so thankful for all those who did their part to get things back to normal. This pandemic has really given us an opportunity to pause and really reorganize our lives. We have time to work together and appreciate our strengths by doing our part to the best of our abilities.

Being on the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) team and knowing what's at stake during COVID-19, I would like to encourage everyone to have a good holiday.

Enjoy the season and get outside. Physical and mental health is very important. However, make sure that you are following the health guidelines. Enjoy time with family and be grateful for the moments we are given daily. And most importantly, be kind and take care of each other.

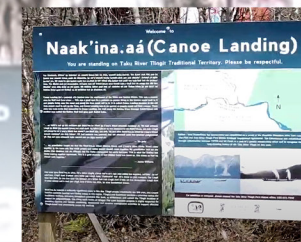
Merry Christmas and happy new year 2021



## Be Kind To Each Other

# Ben Louter Heritage Coordinator

Welcome to



My name is Ben Louter. I am the Heritage Coordinator for the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and I have been working here for about a year and a half.

The Canoe Landing signing project was a collaborative effort that started in the winter of 2019 and was sponsored by B.C. Parks and the Taku Atlin Conservancy.

Until recently, there has been little information at Canoe Landing, a site frequently visited by recreational boaters and fishers. Canoe Landing is a really important place for the Taku River Tlingit people. It was a potlatch site, it was far up river, and from there it was a juncture for a lot of the major trade that connected this area.

The text for the sign came from Jacky Williams' book, 'Lingit Kusteyí: What My Grandfather Taught Me.' In the foreword, he talks about the significance of Canoe Landing and how it functions not only

as an important meeting place but also as the merging of the Sloko and Nakina Rivers.

It served as a metaphor for how Tlingit people and non-First Nations people can come together and work together. When I read that in Jackie's book, I just thought that it was a really beautiful metaphor.

When I visited the site and saw how those two rivers merge together, it really inspired me. Wayne Carllick along with Matthew Wesley, Britney Wesley and Luke Wesley made a really incredible mural for the Canoe landing sign. It was really amazing to see that come together, to see the willingness from Wayne and the youth who were working on it. It wouldn't have happened without them.

*Check out a wonderful video about the project on the TRTFN website on the Lands Page, under the Heritage tab.*

# Ryan LaPointe Land Guardian Coordinator



I define myself by my love of life and land. Since moving here, I have adopted the saying, "Take care of the land, and the land takes care of you."

Much of what I do for Lands is provide technical support to the Land Guardian Program. This includes developing monitoring projects and reviewing the data that is collected.

Additionally, I work to ensure that Tlingit values and perspectives are respected in management policies and activities. This spring, the B.C. government ended hunting of the Carcross Caribou herd. TRTFN has fought for this for years.

Although I think this is a victory, there is still a long way to go. Caribou are recovering but with climate change they will likely never

regain their former numbers.

Now my focus is turning to challenges with moose populations. I hope to do a great deal of community engagement. The province is starting to listen to traditional values and practices.





# GOVERNANCE

By Louise Gordon Manager



Happy holidays!

I want to take this opportunity to wish Sigóowu Kíswas (merry Christmas) to you and your family.

I know this year has been tremendous and we have all seen some ups and downs. But I hope you found moments to see the blessings and the silver linings.

I wish you all a season filled with the warmth and closeness of family. May the new year bring you opportunities for happiness and reflection.

From my family to yours—may you have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

*Louise Gordon*



Remembering Greenhouse Tomatoes





# Rivers to Home

by: Chantelle Simpson

This kind of pain lives deep in the bones  
Deeper than deep, where sorrow grows  
This kind of pain has a hundred faces  
All the voices and costumes of grief's dark places

This kind of pain makes us crackle like frost  
Suddenly old, hunched over what we've lost  
The howl of mourning rings long in the air  
But we are still disbelieving, trapped in the unfair

You will stand, you will speak!  
We saw you only just last week  
In a moment this will end  
And you'll be with us again.

But this kind of loss gives masks for free  
A timeout as the body's gentle courtesy  
So we can move from this to the next  
Somehow adjust to the aching, new context

With a piece missing, iceberg sized  
Trapped in ourselves, violently tongue-tied  
The magic of you can no longer be touched  
But we'll never forget the way that you loved

Tlingit spirit, lonely soul, beautiful man  
We gather to return you to the homeland  
While we grieve for the lost shape of you  
Clutching memories that suddenly seem too few

The churning river rumbles and sighs discretely  
Those ancestral waters reflect our sorrowful weeping  
Ancient pathways over glacier-tumbled stones  
Grandfather Salmon leads the way home

Sunset glows while light leaves the sky  
Tlatsini waits and opens arms wide  
we release our loved one, dear Yanatan  
to the earth, to the river, the moon, the sun

We give over our grief, surrender it all  
throw back and cry, as grieving wolves call  
though grief may ebb it is never done  
but after cold winter months a new season comes

And in the wind we will hear the bold laughter  
Of fish jumping joyously in and out of the water.

*Forever Loved & Remembered*

MICHAEL SIMPSON



*My favourite picture of all of us together... my brother was cooking for a funeral that day, and we all somehow ended up in the same place and decided to help out as a family. This is a picture of that day.*

*K'èdukà Jack*

# The Tlingit Family Learning Center

Jorge Llaca Buznego Manager

My name is Jorge Llaca Buznego,

I accepted the opportunity to serve as the education manager for the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.

Education opened the door to the future for me, and I truly believe in the power of what it can do, and what I do. I have always wanted to work within a First Nation organization and share the beautiful connection that happens in this close-knit community.

Love is a theme that will guide the job I do moving forward. Also, engagement is very important.

The message I would like to share with this community is that we are here to help. I am an experienced teacher and university professor and have done many things I felt passionate about.

My journey to Atlin leads me to accept purposeful work that makes a difference in the lives of people I meet.

In the context of First Nations education, I believe that cultural differences require educational awareness in one or more subjects, which may include an adaptation of the curriculum.

I also believe that beyond just teaching academics, schools and learning centres must foster students' development in their relationships, identity, emotional skills, and overall wellbeing. I am also an advocate of a

model of teaching from a point of view of decolonization and educational inclusion; therefore, I see education as a process of decolonization and self-determination of First Nation communities.

The future is bright. In the past, we have had so many wonderful opportunities here at the Tlingit Family Learning Centre (TFLC): language and culture programs, after school programs, and adult programs.

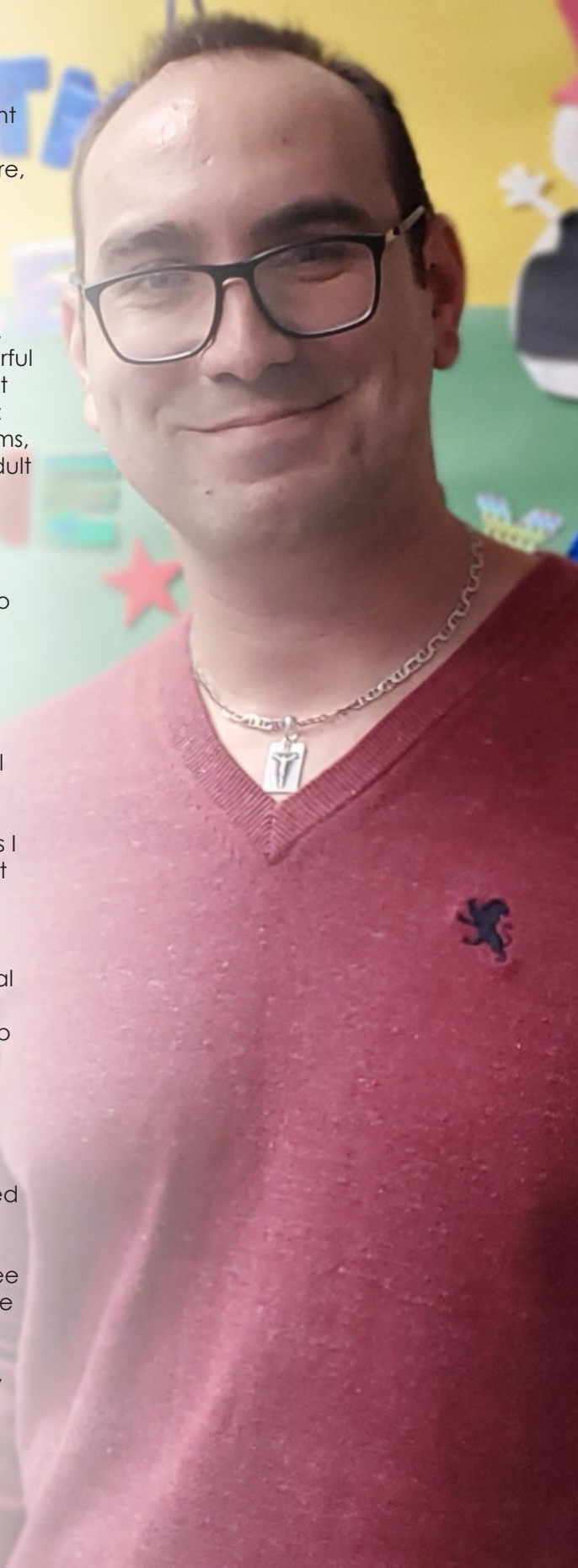
We are looking forward to bringing these and other programs and services back to this facility again. My arrival here in Atlin has opened such amazing new connections.

I have met so many wonderful people. Roberta and Grace, my co-workers, have been so tremendous and supportive as I transitioned into this position at TFLC.

I would like to give a special thanks to the Health and Social Department for sharing Zoya Lewis with us for a while to help support our post secondary students as the department waited for this position to be filled.

I feel welcomed and accepted by you all. I am confident that together we will build a strong Education Department and see renewed life come back to the TFLC in 2021.

May you all have a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.







# Health & Social Manager *Anne Campbell*

### New Staff!

We welcome Mal Wesley as our van driver and thank him for the work he has been doing this last month! It really makes a difference for all of us to have reliable transportation between town and the Cove in the Long Point! Along with two scheduled runs per day, you can arrange for a ride to appointments, and even to Whitehorse on some "Payday Fridays".

Our new family support worker, Dana Mills, hit the ground running, providing services to our families and coordinating care for our clients. We thank Dana for the enthusiasm and energy she brings to the team. Along with her regular work day, Dana will complete her studies and Master of Social Work degree by the end of December – We congratulate Dana!

We also welcome Kim Morrison as your new home care worker. Many of you know Kim as our greenhouse gardener who worked to keep all those plants happy and healthy this summer. Kim has experience in the care field and looks forward to working with community members.

Greta Thorlakson is our community cook and will be offering lunches for take out on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Mal can deliver lunches to elders or those not able to make it for take out.

### Outreach Centre

Fingers crossed that we will have telephones and working internet at the Wellness Centre by mid January so that programs and services will be closer to many citizens. For now we are calling this the "outreach centre" and the idea is a multipurpose area that will offer HS staff services, as well as community drop-in space. There is workout equipment, a big TV, and a computer with internet services for community use. Dana, Family Support, Becky, Youth Coordinator, and Debra, Cultural Outreach will have their offices there. With the Centre for Culture across the street and the kitchen next door, we see this as a positive community hub that can evolve with citizen's needs.

We have been working on having an emergency phone line installed at Tutan Hit since July. It has been challenging communicating with Telus but I think we are nearly there. The phone will be located outside on the porch of the "outreach Centre". If emergency attention is required, picking up the receiver will direct dial to RCMP. We are waiting for the actual phone to be delivered and plugged in – hoping for shortly after Christmas.

### Programs

With help from our youth coordinator, Becky Law, youth have been eager to

grow and learn. They've launched themselves into a variety of creative digital projects and show no sign of slowing down. We are very proud of the work they do at school and also in the community, providing care to our Elders in their after-school jobs with Health and Social.

### COVID 19

Health and Social continues to participate in discussions relating to planning and sharing information regarding COVID 19. We work with Leadership, O&M, Community Paramedic, Atlin Health Centre, First Nation Health Authority, Northern Health and 3Nations.

Right now we are in discussions with authorities and learning about new testing procedures – in BC there is now a centralized testing assessment procedure – and we are learning about vaccinations and the plans for distribution and community immunization. There is some scientific information on Health Canada's website about the trials and testing of the vaccines and we are paying attention to information from the medical health offices in Yukon and BC.

## A VALUABLE SERVICE

By geography, we are required to respect Yukon as well as BC restrictions and requirements under the provincial medical health offices of Dr. Bonnie Henry and Dr. Hanley. There are some differences but essentially, our personal responsibility is to stay home when we are sick, keep our distance from others, socialize only within our family/friends bubble, and follow workplace and commercial establishment requirements when we go about our business. Don't travel unless we have to, wear a mask, keep your hands away from your face, and wash your hands often.

Do spend as much time outdoors as you can – birdwatch, borrow some snowshoes from Health and Social and tramp along the new trail at the point. Borrow some skates from the school rink shack and try out the skating at Como Lake. Maybe roast some marshmallows over the fire. If you need help to get outside or need other kinds of support to help you stay healthy and happy over the holidays – please call us and we will do what we can to help.

Best wishes to you all for the holidays, and for health and happiness throughout 2021.



# Winter Dance

by Donna Patrick

Health & Social Wellness Coordinator



Much has been done in the past quarter that I am happy to report on and celebrate with you. Our safe house renovation has gotten underway.

A special thank you to Phillip Williams, Robert Williams, Jayden Williams, Brandon Williams and Phillip Tizya for the work to freshen up the place with new paint, flooring, cabinets, light fixtures and a new porch. Now our safe house is safe again and we are proud.

I want to welcome our new bus driver, Mal Wesley, thank you for joining our team and making this service available to our community members.

We have organized Christmas hampers for on-reserve members. We hope it brightens your

season and brings holiday cheer.

We congratulate Ashley Jim and Jaden Scout Williams on their daughter Adaline (8 lbs 4.5 oz.)—a healthy & beautiful new little Crow baby.

And finally, we welcome our new TRTFN employees who have joined in the last few months. We are happy you have decided to join us and share your gifts with our community.

May the new year of 2021 be to you a new awakening. May it bring moments to dance and sing songs and find yourself in culture. May you choose to pause and see the blessings of the Creator in your lives

*Donna Patrick*







# Looking FORWARD

by Izaiah Carlick

You see, I will be 16 in 2021, I cannot wait to go get my licence so I can visit my friends in the Yukon. Even if it's just to bother them.

Independence to me means freedom. Freedom to connect with people. Who wants to go skidooning and dirt biking by themselves? Not me.

What if you do a cool jump and no one sees it?

My friends are important to me and they are generous. I share time with them, and they share time with me. I look forward to epic adventures with my buddies.

Working with my dad is great. He is strong and capable. I have many opportunities to work

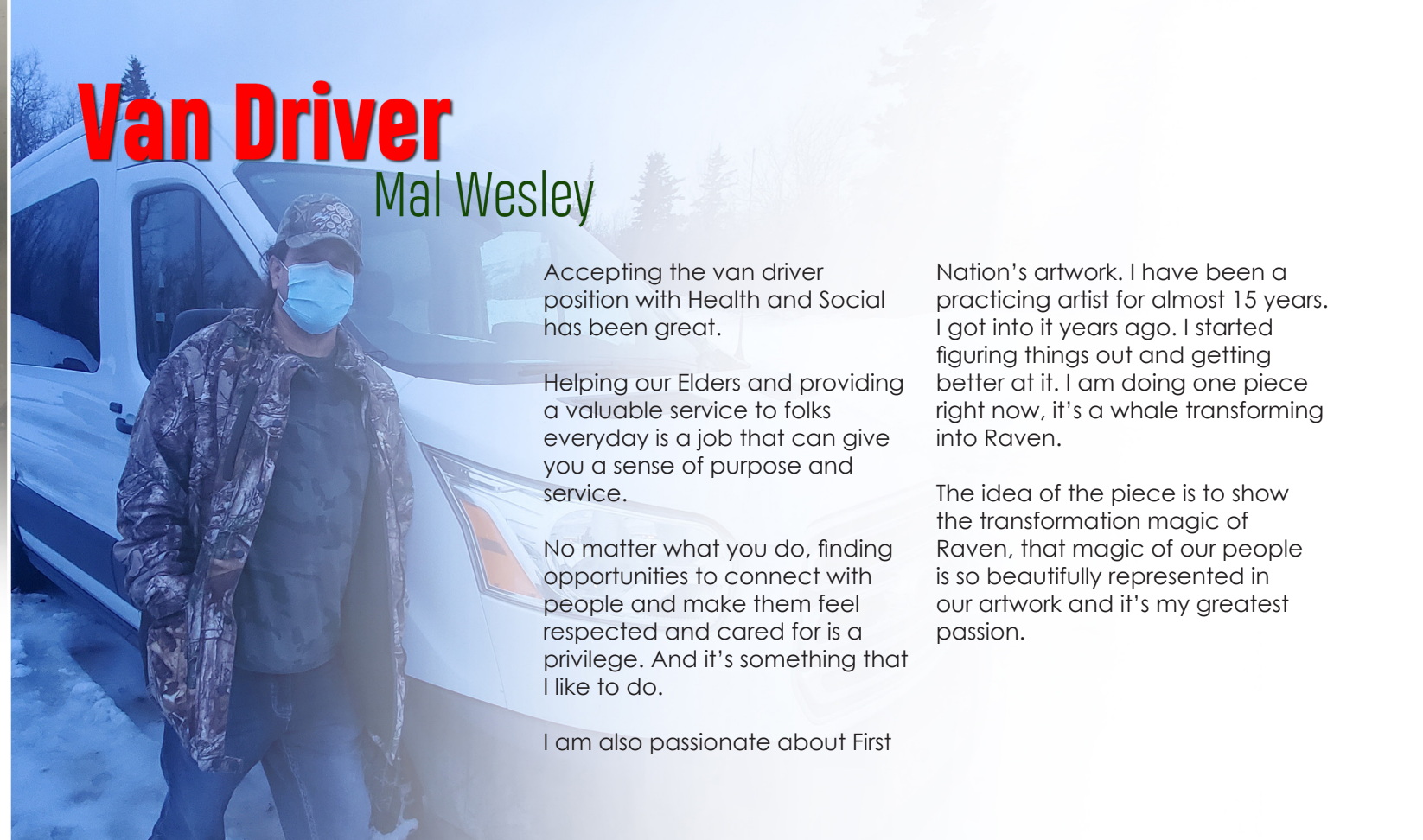
with him as he does his job for O & M. I learn all about the grater, the loader, the dump truck, the water truck, and the backhoe.

Watching my dad and being mentored by him has motivated me to want to work on machines and get my licence.

Driving the heavy machines is just like a video game, some people think it's so hard but it's so easy.

Looking forward I would like to race skidoos and dirt bikes, but a heavy equipment operator would be my second choice. Be happy, everything is going to be all right.

Look forward to the future for fun.



# Van Driver Mal Wesley

Accepting the van driver position with Health and Social has been great.

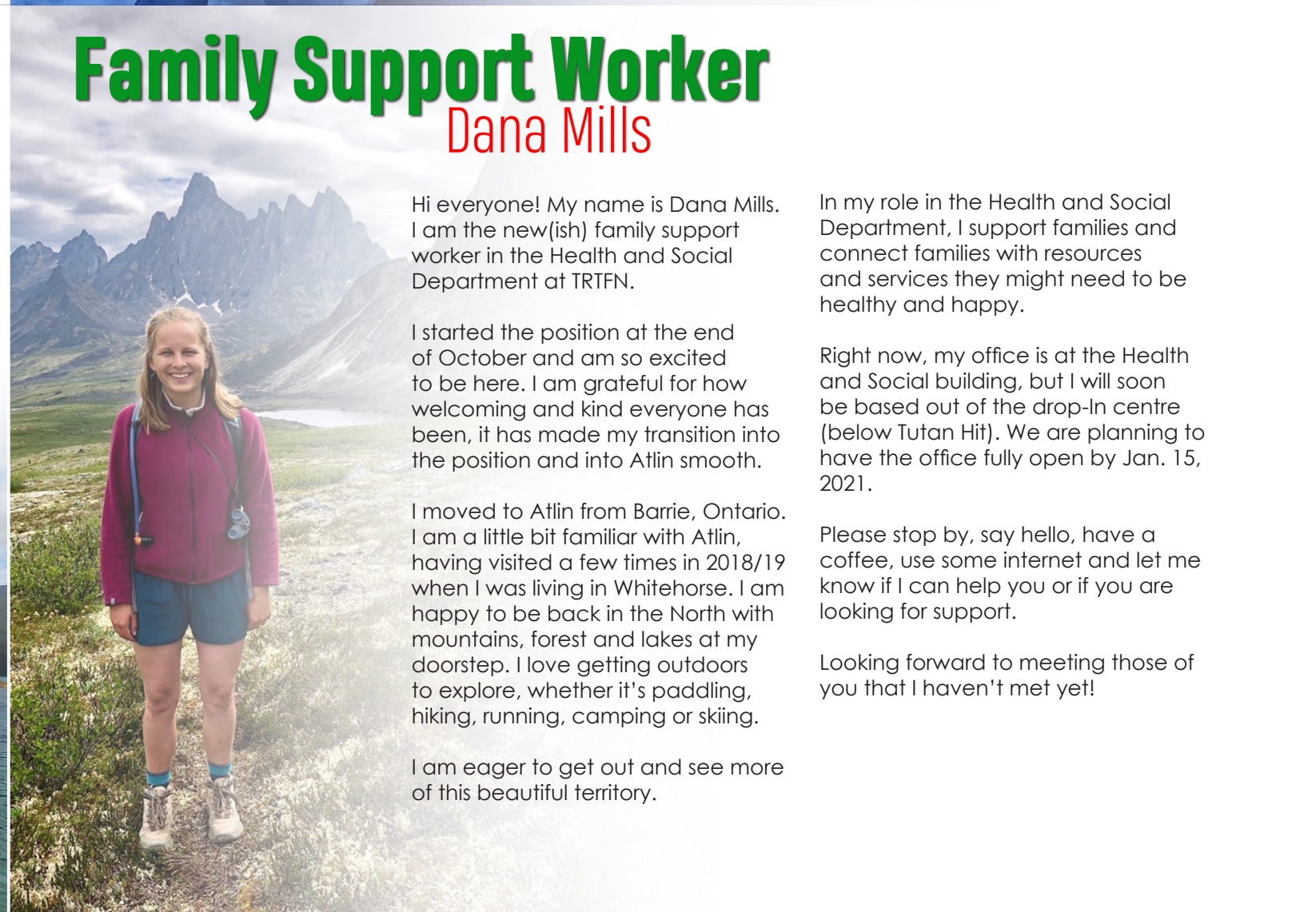
Helping our Elders and providing a valuable service to folks everyday is a job that can give you a sense of purpose and service.

No matter what you do, finding opportunities to connect with people and make them feel respected and cared for is a privilege. And it's something that I like to do.

I am also passionate about First

Nation's artwork. I have been a practicing artist for almost 15 years. I got into it years ago. I started figuring things out and getting better at it. I am doing one piece right now, it's a whale transforming into Raven.

The idea of the piece is to show the transformation magic of Raven, that magic of our people is so beautifully represented in our artwork and it's my greatest passion.



# Family Support Worker Dana Mills

Hi everyone! My name is Dana Mills. I am the new(ish) family support worker in the Health and Social Department at TRTFN.

I started the position at the end of October and am so excited to be here. I am grateful for how welcoming and kind everyone has been, it has made my transition into the position and into Atlin smooth.

I moved to Atlin from Barrie, Ontario. I am a little bit familiar with Atlin, having visited a few times in 2018/19 when I was living in Whitehorse. I am happy to be back in the North with mountains, forest and lakes at my doorstep. I love getting outdoors to explore, whether it's paddling, hiking, running, camping or skiing.

I am eager to get out and see more of this beautiful territory.

In my role in the Health and Social Department, I support families and connect families with resources and services they might need to be healthy and happy.

Right now, my office is at the Health and Social building, but I will soon be based out of the drop-in centre (below Tutan Hit). We are planning to have the office fully open by Jan. 15, 2021.

Please stop by, say hello, have a coffee, use some internet and let me know if I can help you or if you are looking for support.

Looking forward to meeting those of you that I haven't met yet!



# Health & Social Services Information

## VAN SERVICE

Masks are mandatory while in the van.

Van Schedule – Monday – Friday (except “Payday Fridays”):

Leaves Taxgoon Road – 8:00 (be on Taxgoon Road for Pick up)

Arrives Atlin Administration Buildings - 8:20

Leaves Atlin Administration Buildings – 8:30

Arrives Taxgoon Road – 9:00

Leaves Taxgoon Road 4:30 p.m.

Arrives Atlin Administration Buildings – 5:00

Leaves Atlin Administration Buildings – 5:10

Arrives Taxgoon Road – 5:30

Call – 250 651 7900 EXT 310 to book a ride or Contact Mal Wesley

**MEDICAL TRAVEL** 250 651 7900 Ext 301

**WELLNESS SERVICES** – 250 651 7900 – Ext 315

Counselling appointments

Addictions and treatment process

Program/service Inquiry

Various member supports

## INCOME ASSISTANCE

250 651 7900 Ext 306

We are no longer able to accommodate walk-ins at this time and regret that this may cause some difficulty.

Due to the time requirements to process each request for Income Assistance, it is important appointments be made and kept. It is also important that all required documents be provided.

Rides are available so please indicate at the time you make appointments if you need a ride.

Thank you for your understanding.

## TUTAN HIT

Monday - Elders lunch available for take-out noon-1:30

Tuesday – Community lunch available for take-out noon-1:30

Thursday – Community lunch available for take-out noon- 1:30

## YOUTH/ WELLNESS CENTRE

We are working on creating an Outreach Centre and hope to be fully open and operational in the new year. The plan is to house the offices of the Family Support, Cultural Outreach, Youth Coordinator at the centre.

Youth activities, elders drop in, fitness equipment and a community “office” with a computer for members use to access various online services will be available.

## CENTRE FOR CULTURE

250 651 7837 for appointment

The centre is open 10:00-4:00 and 7:00-9:00

\*TRTFN Offices closed Dec. 24th – Jan. 4th

## Emergency Contacts:

December 24-27 – Anne 250 651 7773

December 28-31 – Zoya 250 651 7504

January 1 – 3 - Donna 250 651 2464



Zoya Lewis in her lovely red helmet after the snowstorm in December 2020.

## Meet our Counsellors

# Svenja Weber

MC, R. Psych(AB), CCC., C.P.(O)

I was born and raised in a small town along Germany's Rhine River. In 1997, I moved to Whitehorse, Yukon, where I later graduated from F.H. Collins Secondary School and then Yukon College.

In my early twenties, I moved to Victoria, B.C. and also Ireland to further my knowledge and education. But I missed the connection to the Yukon and its people, so I made the decision to return to Whitehorse in 2009.

I am so grateful for the untouched nature that surrounds us and try to connect to it as

often as I can, especially in the company of my two loyal dogs. I began my career in the social services field as a support worker for people with acquired brain injuries and developmental disabilities.

This work inspired me to become a professional counsellor; I wanted to strengthen my connections to others and be part of their journeys toward mental health and well-being.

Through my own life experiences, I learned how helpful counselling can

## Strengthen my connection to others and be part of their journeys

be when connecting to a counsellor who you feel comfortable with. It might seem scary to imagine talking to a stranger about your problems, but I believe that once clients get to know their counsellor and build a trusting relationship, they are able to make positive changes and feel better.

I believe that meaningful connection and nourishing therapeutic relationships are so important to someone's healing. Everyone experiences pain at some point in life and it's normal for us to need help from others, whether from a loved one or a professional counsellor.

Counselling is an opportunity for personal growth, but it's

also an act of courage that can help a person reach their full potential.

I am honoured that my clients let me see the deepest and often darkest parts of themselves, because it means that I also get to see them reclaiming their self-worth, transforming their pain, and learning to relate in healthier ways.

It is this progress that gives my work so much meaning and joy.





### IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID -19 VIRUS

If you are experiencing symptoms of a cold or influenza or have questions about COVID-19 Please call the Northern Health COVID-19 information line @ **1-844-645-7811** They will provide you with the necessary information and direction.

The directive is still for the people to **stay home, self isolate and practice the recommended hand washing procedures.**

At this time we are asking all clients to please call 250-651-7677 prior to coming to the Health Center for any reason at any time.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Open Monday through Friday 9:00 - 12:00pm & 1:00 - 4:30 pm

For emergencies a nurse is on call after hours and on the weekends and can be reached at 250-651-7677.

We have also implemented **front door screening procedures** at the Health Center in response to the pandemic.

Pick up the black telephone to your right of the front door; one of the staff will answer the phone inside and you will be screened for cold/flu, respiratory symptoms prior to entering the building.

**The phone is cleaned and sanitized after each use.**

Atlin Health Center staff wish to thank you for your cooperation in keeping our community safe and virus free.

# Taaku Culture Centre

by Debra Michel Cultural Outreach Coordinator

BOOK A TIME TO DO YOUR PROJECTS THIS SEASON

MON - FRI  
10:30 - 4PM  
5PM - 9PM

CALL: 7449 OR 7837





# BEAVER & PORCUPINE

## A TLINGIT LEGEND

By Wayne Carlick

In ancient times Beaver and Porcupine were the best of friends, and Porcupine visited at Beaver's home a great deal to protect him from Bear. Bear was very much afraid of Porcupine because he had such sharp quills; but Bear was not at all afraid of Beaver and ate him up every chance he got.

One time Porcupine was visiting Beaver, when the water in the beaver pond began to fall very fast, so they knew Bear had torn out the beaver dam to drain the pond so he could catch Beaver.

Porcupine went out and drove Bear away and Beaver repaired his dam. Then Porcupine said, "I am hungry. You do not eat my kind of food. Let us go to my place so I can get something to eat." So, Beaver went out with Porcupine to his home and Porcupine climbed up a tree to eat some bark while Beaver waited for him on the ground. Suddenly Beaver cried, "Here comes Bear! I am afraid he will eat me! Help me, friend!"

**"Get on my back and  
I will take you for a ride on the water"**

So, Porcupine got on Beaver's back and swam to a little grassy island where Porcupine landed to look around. Then Beaver laughed at him and said, "Now you are on an island and you cannot swim. So, I am going to leave you there just as you left me up the tree, for that will teach you better manners with your friends."

Then Beaver swam away home and left Porcupine on the little island all alone. Now, Porcupine had a magic song which he began to sing at once to Wolverine which made Wolverine come quickly to the pond and ask Porcupine what it was he wanted. Wolverine had to do what Porcupine told him to because of the magic song.

"Blow your breath on the water so it will freeze, for I am on an island and cannot swim and I will soon starve if I do not get back to land."  
Wolverine blew his breath on the water in a magic way, and the pond immediately froze

Porcupine climbed down and helped Beaver to climb high among the branches of the tree, where Bear could not reach him, and then Porcupine went on eating his dinner of bark. When he had eaten all he wanted, Porcupine climbed down and left Beaver up in the tree while he went off to visit his neighbors.

Beaver got very tired holding onto the tree and wanted to get down, but he could not climb alone so he hung on until he was nearly ready to drop. Then he called Squirrel, who came and helped him down so he could go home.

Beaver was very angry at Porcupine for going away and not helping him down out of the tree, so he said, "I am going to teach Porcupine better manners; I am going to treat him just as he has treated me."

A few days later Porcupine came to visit Beaver again at his house on the pond and Beaver said, "Get on my back and I will take you for a ride on the water."

over, so Porcupine crossed back to land on ice. He was very angry with Beaver and would not be friends with him any more, so he went to the hills and made friends with Woodchuck, and they have lived in the same country together ever since.

Beaver continued to live by himself in his pond but he had to learn how to dig long tunnels back to the banks of his pond so he could get away from Bear without Porcupine's help. This story shows how good friends can fall out over little things and spoil a fine friendship. And that is never a good thing to do, remember.

"Friendship"

Artist: Wayne Carlick

Materials: Ceder wood, Porcupine Long Hairs, Porcupine Quills, Eagle Feathers, Beaver Fur.



Photography by Manu Keggenhoff