

WELCOME



MEET THE 14 FIRST NATIONS OF YUKON
PLUS: TOP THINGS TO DO, FESTIVALS AND EVENTS, STORIES AND VOICES

YFNCT.CA

COVER PHOTO

by Shayla Snowshoe

The Selkirk Spirit Dancers at Moosehide Gathering in July 2016.

LEGEND

- ★ Capital City
- Yukon Community
- Alaska Highway
- Primary Highway
- - - Gravel Road
- - - Seasonal Road
- - - Ferry Route
- 🏠 Cultural Centre



BEAUFORT SEA

Tuktoyaktuk

Inuvik

Fort McPherson

Old Crow

Porcupine River

Arctic Circle

Fairbanks

Circle Hot Springs

ALASKA

Delta Junction

Eagle

Chicken

Tok

to Anchorage

Beaver Creek

Burwash Landing

Destruction Bay

Haines Junction

Yakutat, AK

PACIFIC OCEAN

YUKON

Keno

Mayo

Stewart Crossing

Pelly Crossing

Telly River

Carmacks

Little Salmon Lake

Faro

Ross River

Watson Lake

Liard River

Fort Liard, NWT

Liard River

Johnson's Crossing

Teslin

Tagish

Marsh Lake

Carcross

Atlin, BC

Skagway, AK

Haines, AK

Juneau, AK

British Columbia

Northwest Territories

Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association

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TRAVEL REGIONS

These are the travel regions of the Yukon, as outlined in the *Yukon Tourism Vacation Planner*, a helpful companion piece to this guide. Pick one up at any Yukon Visitor Centre or order one online.

travelyukon.com



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Marilyn Jensen of the Dakhká Khwáan Dancers at the 2017 National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration.
Alistair Maitland Photography

WE ARE HONoured TO HAVE YOU HERE



These beautiful lands have been home to us since Kwáday Kwádan “long ago people” times. As you venture through these lands, we invite you to listen, learn, and experience our culture to help you create your own Yukon stories and memories.

– YFNCT President Shirlee Frost and the Board of Directors

Left to Right: Board Members Florence Moses, Shadelle Chambers, Judy Gingell, Lisa Dewhurst, Courtney Wheelton, Shirlee Frost, Melina Hougen, Victoria Fred. Missing From Photo: Diane Strand, Marilyn Jensen and our esteemed Elder Doris Mclean who passed away in January 2018.

CONNECT

WITH US TODAY



4

CELEBRATE WITH US

Visit our festivals, community events and cultural centres.



8

OUR LAND IS OUR LIFE

Coming together to protect our environment.



42

BUSINESS LISTINGS

Experience unique and authentic Yukon.



6

TELLING OUR ANCESTORS' STORIES

A story by Alice Watson Brodhagen and the importance of oral traditions.

7

TOGETHER TODAY FOR OUR CHILDREN TOMORROW

Our journey to build a bright future.

10

TRAVEL OUR HERITAGE TRAILS

See long ago places and spaces.

11

ENDURING LANGUAGES

Explore the eight First Nation languages in Yukon.



52

WE FOLLOW THE SEASONS

Learn about our food from the land.

MEET

THE 14 FIRST NATIONS OF YUKON

WATSON LAKE REGION

14

LIARD FIRST NATION

Watson Lake

CAMPBELL REGION



16

ROSS RIVER DENA COUNCIL

Ross River

SOUTHERN LAKES REGION



18

TESLIN TLINGIT COUNCIL

Teslin

20

CARCROSS/TAGISH FIRST NATION

Carcross

WHITEHORSE REGION



22

KWANLIN DŪN FIRST NATION

Whitehorse

24

TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN COUNCIL

Whitehorse

KLUANE REGION



26

CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

Haines Junction

28

KLUANE FIRST NATION

Burwash Landing

30

WHITE RIVER FIRST NATION

Beaver Creek

KLONDIKE REGION

32

LITTLE SALMON CARMACKS FIRST NATION

Carmacks

34

SELKIRK FIRST NATION

Pelly Crossing

33

TR'ÖNDEK HWĒCH'IN FIRST NATION

Dawson City

SILVER TRAIL REGION

38

FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYAK DUN

Mayo

NORTH YUKON REGION



40

VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION

Old Crow



The Selkirk Spirit Dancers
at Moosehide Gathering
in summer 2016.
Shayla Snowshoe

CELEBRATE WITH US

For thousands of years our arts and culture have kept our stories alive. Not long ago, some of our traditions were outlawed, and we were shamed for practising our culture. These were dark times for our people, but our Elders never forgot our ways.

Today, as we come back into the light, we invite you to celebrate with us at our many festivals and year-round community celebrations, where our songs, dance and art come to life. Our cultural and interpretive centres are here to welcome and guide you with an authentic glimpse into who we are – our past, our present and our vibrant future.

For cultural centre locations, please see the **map on the inside cover**.

Texture: Fritz Mueller Visuals

KEY CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Smaller events such as hand games, community feasts and drum dances happen throughout the year. Let our cultural centres be your guide.

Skookum Jim Folklore Show
Whitehorse
Annual

Myth and Medium
Dawson
Biennial – even years

Yukon Native Hockey Tournament
Whitehorse
Annual

Da Kų Năn Ts'etthet Dance Festival
Haines Junction
Biennial – odd years

National Indigenous Peoples Day
Locations Across Yukon
Annual



"I knew we had come full circle in the revitalization of our culture through traditional practices. That was my goal as a weaver. I can make robes, one at a time, but I need people to dance them – to make the robes come alive again."

Ashea, Ann Smith
Kwanlin Dün First Nation Wolf Clan Elder



Ann Smith wearing her Ravenstail ceremonial robe "Box Within A Box," apron and leggings. From the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Permanent Art Collection.
Courtesy of Whitehorse Star/ Vince Fedoroff



A youth wearing his regalia at the Adäka Cultural Festival.
Fritz Mueller Visuals



Indigenous groups from across the North drumming together at the 2012 Adäka Cultural Festival.
Fritz Mueller Visuals

Adäka Cultural Festival
Whitehorse
Annual

Mayo Arts Festival
Mayo
Annual

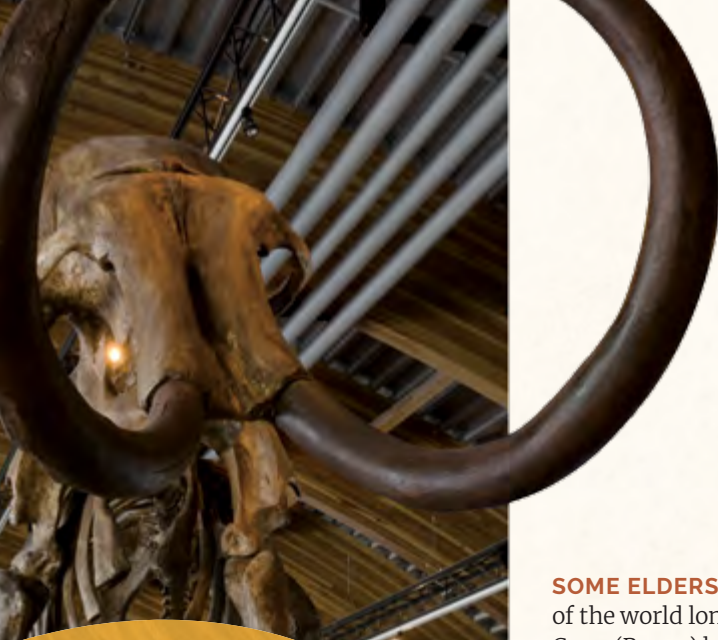
Haa Kusteeyi Celebration
Carcross
Biennial – odd years

Moosehide Gathering
Moosehide Village near Dawson
Biennial – even years

Blue Feather Music Festival
Whitehorse
Annual

For complete listings on festivals and events please visit our website yfncf.ca/festivals-gatherings

JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC



SAH DENA NUGUDITSHI *Kaska*

Telling Our Ancestors' Stories

EDGÉDÉH CHO *Kaska*

THE STORY OF THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH

By the late *Asba*
Alice Watson Brodhagen, Elder

A long time ago people camped near the present Watson Lake campground setting fishnets under the ice.

One old woman heard a big noise. People spotted tracks, bigger than a moose. Suddenly a large animal like an elephant appeared.

The mammoth grabbed two children with its trunk. People panicked. Old Woman shouted: "Grab long poles! Crawl on the ice to the island." Everyone got across safely.

Old Woman said: "Light a fire. Sing! Drum!" The mammoth, roaring and stomping, started across the ice. Old Woman yelled, "Keep singing and drumming!" The mammoth came closer. People hid. But not Old Woman. She drummed and sang spiritual songs until at last the ice opened up with a loud boom and the mammoth disappeared under water.

Everyone came out of the bushes, crying and singing, relieved to be alive. They honoured Old Woman with a feast.

To this day Kaska people consider the island sacred and believe the mammoth's bones are on the lake bottom.

SOME ELDERS tell of the beginning of the world long, long ago when Crow (Raven) brought light to the people. Others tell of Game Mother who stretched a sinew net across four mountain peaks near Carcross and brought all the animals into the world.

Throughout the Yukon our people have preserved many different oral traditions passed down from our ancestors. They continue to tell them to younger generations, guiding us to live well together, sharing our resources and striving for harmony with all life on earth.

Respect for the land and for animals is deeply rooted in our culture. Gwich'in speak of early times when humans and caribou were close relatives, easily communicating with each other. Hunters today give thanks to animals that provide sustenance to their communities.

Tutchone and Kaska traditions speak of the giant animals that once roamed the Yukon. Our ancestors adapted weapons and tools to deal with them, along with strategies for keeping families safe. Alice Watson Brodhagen's story of the woolly mammoth (left insert) illustrates how the wisdom of Elders and the courage of people acting together provided security for the community.

Our children continue to learn about appropriate behaviour and life-long responsibilities from their Elders, parents, aunties and uncles as heard in Hän, Upper Tanana, Inland Tlingit and Tagish stories. Living and working together is our way – our stories give us strength for now and all future times.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Elder
Shirley Adamson sharing
traditional knowledge and
stories by the Yukon River.
archbould.com





First Nations graduates from across Yukon celebrate their achievements.

Yukon First Nation Graduation Society/Rick Massie

TOGETHER TODAY FOR OUR CHILDREN TOMORROW

YUKON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE long ago developed social networks and cultural practices to govern ourselves. We cherish Elders and youth as anchors of our continued well-being.

After the 1800s newcomers introduced profound changes, bringing diseases that decimated our people, along with new beliefs, residential schools and government policies.

Following World War II our leaders re-examined the changes overtaking our lives. In 1973 they wrote a groundbreaking document entitled *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* outlining claims to lands, resources and autonomy. Our Chiefs

went to Ottawa to present it to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, beginning the long journey to re-establish our self-governing nations.

In 1993 Yukon First Nations signed an Umbrella Final Agreement, a modern treaty with Canada and the Yukon enshrined in Canada's Constitution. It defines the rights of First Nations to govern lands, resources, justice, education, heritage and culture. A key achievement is our authority to educate our youth. Our children now attend community schools close to family who nurture traditional skills, languages, and cultural practices alongside contemporary lessons.

Eleven Yukon First Nations have signed Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements, while three continue to work on future forms of governance. Together we are building new relationships for all Yukon people today, and for all our children tomorrow.

Since the 1970s, our annual First Nation Graduation Ceremony has honoured thousands of high school graduates who have gone on to earn diplomas and degrees as administrators, educators, cultural workers, nurses, lawyers, doctors and entrepreneurs. 2015 saw a record year with 132 Indigenous high school graduates. We are proud of them all!



OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP throughout this land, and well beyond its borders. Before newcomers arrived, no boundaries separated us from other northern peoples.

We still cherish close ties with relatives in Alaska, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Together, we are working to strengthen our communities after many difficult years of disruptions caused by colonization.

In recent decades serious environmental issues have threatened our lands. We've experienced polluted waters and forests from mining, depletion of fish from hydro dams, and over-hunting after highway development. Above all, climate change is alarming as we witness profound, rapid changes in animal behaviours, habitats and landforms.

Look after
the land and it will
look after you.

We are not opposed to using our resources to provide opportunities for economic benefits. Development should be sustainable and socially responsible. It should not disrupt our ability to continue harvesting and practising our cultures.

Today we unite with our neighbours in campaigns for the protection of wildlife and fragile northern ecosystems. We are deeply concerned about plans to develop the protected ANWR lands of Alaska, where every year the Porcupine Caribou Herd migrate across northern Yukon to give birth to new calves. Likewise, we advocate for protection of the Peel Watershed, one of the last pristine watersheds in the world. Our representatives sit on the Yukon River International Salmon Treaty committees to mitigate threats to salmon species travelling along our rivers.

For all these issues and many more we are mindful that our future, and that of the world, depends on wise decisions regarding the use of resources. As Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elder Percy Henry reminds us: "Look after the land and it will look after you."

Caribou mother and
baby on tundra in
northern Yukon.

Peter Mather

ZHI NÄNKA JĚ
SOTHÄN HUH

Northern Tutchone

Our Land is Our Life



Beautiful vista of the Wind River,
part of the Peel Watershed.
Peter Mather



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Oral traditions and early Indigenous maps document wide-ranging travel across rugged terrain. As you explore the Yukon you may wonder how our people found their way across this immense landscape before modern maps and GPS. Of course, the wisdom of past generations provided expert knowledge of landforms, but how did they remember so many features and places to support long distance travel?

In fact, our people employed sophisticated Indigenous language place names to identify water and land features. Place names often referred to the colour or shape of a feature such as a hill that could be seen from a distance providing a way-finding marker. Many creeks, rivers or lakes were named for particular food resources such as fish, berries or medicinal plants. In other cases, names memorialized an important person or event. Names had associated stories that helped people remember and pass on information orally with the expectation young people would listen carefully to details that could be essential for survival.

TRAVEL OUR HERITAGE TRAILS


TRAVEL WAS NECESSARY year-round for hunting and gathering, but also for trade to acquire special materials like obsidian and to participate in family and clan ceremonial gatherings. We had extensive networks of trails and river routes encompassing the entire northwest.

Today we still travel our ancient trails using modern transport. Many highways follow the routes established by our people long ago – the Haines Road, Alaska Highway and Dempster Highway all take you along ancient trails.

You may see remnants of footpaths etched deep into the earth around our communities, the evidence of

countless generations walking or travelling with dogs from place to place. Miles Canyon trails in Whitehorse, Tro'chëk and Crocus Bluff trails in Dawson City, and the Dena Cho Trail in Ross River trace our Elders' footsteps.

Yukon River travellers may see families at summer fish camps established long ago by their great grandparents near Whitehorse, Carmacks, Fort Selkirk and Dawson City. These pathways and places hold memories and meanings, cherished and passed along as a living legacy for all people.


Elder Jimmy Johnny
guiding along the
Snake River in the
Peel Watershed.
archbould.com

Thank you Gwānaschis Māsį Günètchīsh Māsi Gunalchīsh Māhsi
English Southern Tutchone Northern Tutchone Tagish Kaska Tlingit Gwich'in

Hay Tsin'įį How are you? Dāninch'e? Dāninch'i? Dānit'ē? Dénht'ā?
Hän Upper Tanana English Southern Tutchone Northern Tutchone Tagish Kaska

Mā sá iyatı? Neenjıt dągòonch'uu? Nānjıt dāhòonch'e? Nts'ādįjt'eh?
Tlingit Gwich'in Hän Upper Tanana

Welcome – Good to See You Dąkwān'į yū shǎw ghànīddhān Dąyę
English Southern Tutchone Northern Tutchone

yēsòots'enindhān, dąkhwāts'enē'in yū Dahts'eneh'įh sūkūsen
Tagish

Nekegādzenehtāni yēh tǎné gutie Yak'ē ixhǎtini Nakhwanyāa'in
English Tlingit Gwich'in

geenjıt shòh iidilii Nėkhwētr'ēneh'įh tǎn'įh Nohts'eneh'įį tsin'įį
English

choh ts'enįt

ENDURING LANGUAGES

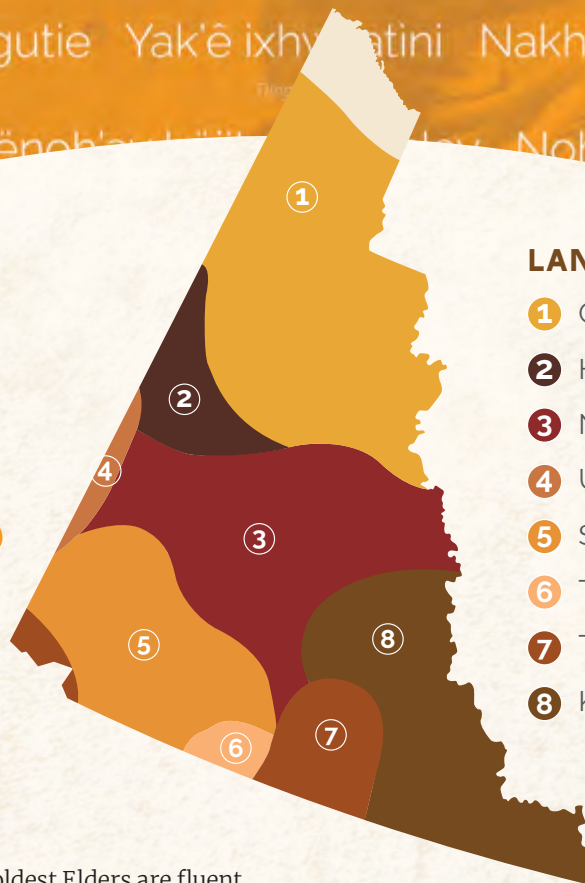
IN THE YUKON there are eight different First Nations language groups. Inland Tlingit is closely related to languages spoken on the Alaska coast, while the others are part of the Athapaskan languages spoken from Alaska through the Canadian Northwest and as far south as Arizona and New Mexico.

Yukon First Nations languages were devastated by the imposition of policies in residential schools that forbade children to speak their first languages. Within a few decades from the 1950s to the 1970s most young people ceased to be active speakers. Yukon's Indigenous languages remain, however, a vital link to the traditional knowledge of Elders in every region. Place names, personal names, genealogical information, and natural resource data are all captured in these heritage languages.

Our oldest Elders are fluent, everyday speakers and we are working hard to bring back their languages for our young people. Today First Nations governments sponsor language classes in their communities for adults, and youth study the languages in most Yukon schools. Many young people are intent on becoming fluent again, as part of the burgeoning focus on their Indigenous cultural practices. Dance groups, singer-song writers, visual and performing artists in many genres include Indigenous languages as a

keystone element of their art. Cultural “headstart” programs, Indigenous language “nests” for preschool children, and adult language immersion programs are underway.

As you travel in our communities, visiting festivals and cultural displays, listen for drumming, songs and conversations in our languages – you'll be transported to places that are unique in the world. You can only hear it here!



LANGUAGES

- 1 Gwich'in
- 2 Hän
- 3 Northern Tutchone
- 4 Upper Tanana
- 5 Southern Tutchone
- 6 Tagish
- 7 Tlingit
- 8 Kaska



A JOURNEY THROUGH OUR NATIONS

As you travel our rivers and highways, you will follow the ancient pathways of our people, see the animals, mountains and valleys we love, experience the clean air, rich aromas and vibrant colours of our everyday world. While we share many common traditions, each of our 14 First Nations has its own special places and voices. We invite you to connect with us and feel the pulse of our people and our land as you journey through it.





View of Second Wye Lake with the town of Watson Lake in the distance.
Derek Crowe

LIARD FIRST NATION

Kaska Dena hīh yégādā'. Kayeh yégādā'. Kaska

Kaska people protect animals. They protect land.

AS KASKA PEOPLE, we consider our land and everything on it sacred. We have been stewards of our land from time immemorial. We will continue to take care of it for all generations to come. From Ross River in the Yukon to Kwadacha in northern British Columbia, this is all Kaska land. It provides for us and continues to teach us and guide us. If you listen to the spirit of the land, you can hear it speaking to you. The land, water, fire, animals – everything speaks to you if you really listen.

Kaska people living around *Tetsetüge mené'* (Watson Lake) come from many places in our territory. We have settled here and made it our home.

We strive to work together to create a healthy, vibrant and prosperous community where our people, our land, our culture and our language are valued and celebrated.

If you listen to
the spirit of the land,
you can hear it
speaking to you.

Adela Stone Watson, well-known Kaska Elder, and her husband Frank Watson, were the first to settle in the area. The lake was named after Frank.

We are a proud, strong people. Many of our people follow a subsistence life on the land – hunting, fishing and trapping to obtain food and earn income. We enjoy fun cultural events especially when we are out on the land with our Elders and youth. Our artists produce exceptional beadwork, hide garments, birchbark baskets, carvings and paintings.

We invite you to enjoy the unique beauties of our region, pausing to listen to our voices, the waters and the land as you travel through our communities.

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 WYE LAKE WALK Take a leisurely 2.5-km stroll around this lake in the centre of town, with interpretive signs and excellent birdwatching opportunities. Turn north on 8th Street and follow it to Wye Lake Park on the right. The main trail is the one closest to the lake.

2 LIARD RIVER CANYON Relive a piece of history and take in the picturesque canyon on this 3-km hike, suitable for those with a moderate fitness level. The well-marked trail begins at the west end of Lucky Lake.

Whirlpool Canyon, located south of Watson Lake on the Liard River.
Martina Volfova



Colourful beading on moosehide slippers by Kaska Elder Mida Donnessey.
Heather Jones



Beadwork on home-tanned moosehide by Kaska Elder Mida Donnessey.
Derek Crowe

3 WATSON LAKE AND LIARD RIVER AT UPPER LIARD Looking for an opportunity to catch tonight's supper? Test your angling skills at one of these fish-abundant and beautiful spots – both located close to the town of Watson Lake.

4 AURORA BOREALIS Experience the thrill of dancing northern lights – called *Yūkā* in Kaska – best viewed in our night skies in fall and winter.



Spectacular aurora borealis lights up the night sky.
Robert Postma

5 HAND GAMES AND CULTURE Watch for notices advertising our cultural events, including Hand Games tournaments – action-packed drama with drums, competitive teams and visitors from around the North. Call the Liard First Nation office at (867) 535-5200 for events being hosted during your stay.

"*Tucho Ahda Stick Gambling at Coffee Lake*" by Kaska Artist Mary Caesar, depicts people having fun at a hand games tournament (2008).
Government of Yukon



COMMUNITY VOICES

THROUGH MY GRANDMOTHER'S EYES

I am a Dene, carrying forward my grandmother *Māsiyā*'s ways, keeping her stories and her spirit alive. My grandmother travelled all over our land, and knew everything on our land by name. She was very strong, but gentle. She had a powerful voice and when she spoke, everyone listened. People also called her *Dzedéh'īnīmā* – "the one who can foresee the future" – because she always knew what was coming and warned people about it. I continue teaching our young people about our Kaska ways, our land, our language, and who we are as Kaska people.

As you travel through our Kaska territory, I wish for you to see it through my grandmother's eyes.




Leda Jules Elder
Martina Volfova





ROSS RIVER DENA COUNCIL

Dentah soale gintah. Kaska
How are you? Walk slowly.


Famous Amos Dick, a Kaska Dena Elder
from Ross River at the annual Yukon
Hand Games Championships in 2015.
Joel Krahn/Yukon News

THE PEOPLE of *Tu Lidlini* – which means “where the river meets and people gather” – welcome you to this place we call home, where the Pelly and Ross rivers meet. Our people gathered here for thousands of years and we still do today. Both English river names hearken back to fur trade days when newcomers replaced some of our Dena names with English ones to honour far distant Hudson’s Bay Company men. We are returning to our Dena language names as quickly as possible to ensure they survive with all their vibrancy for our children and those yet to come.

As Kaska Dena or *Denek’éh* – Dena means people – we are part of the larger group of the Kaska Nation

We are returning
to our Dena
language names as
quickly as possible

living in southeast Yukon and
northern B.C. We often designate
groups by the landscape features

in their areas. Though we have
community-based governments
in B.C. and Yukon, we consider
ourselves one Kaska Nation.

Led by our Elders, we retain a
strong sense of our traditional
spirituality. We fish, hunt and learn
from the land as our ancestors have
before us. Drumming is the heartbeat
of our nation, uniting people in
prayer and song as we build toward a
new and better future for ourselves
as independent self-reliant people in
control of our destiny.

Come and meet us at *Tu Lidlini*.

rrdc.ca

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 DENA CHO TRAIL Travel our historic trail on foot, skis, or mountain bike from *Tu Lidlini* (Ross River) to *Tse Zul* (Faro) with spectacular views of the Pelly River and Mountains. Bring your tent or stay in quaint cabins en route.

2 ROSS RIVER FOOTBRIDGE Walk across the Pelly River on the longest suspension foot bridge in North America. The original bridge was built in one day as part of the WW II Canol Pipeline Project in 1942.

3 DENNIS SHORTY FINE ART GALLERY Visit one of the Yukon's most prestigious First Nation artists at his home base. Hear stories of the creative inspiration given to him by Elders and his Dena ways while you marvel at his carvings, paintings and jewellery.



View of Ross River from the Dena Cho Trail.
Brian Ladue

4 DENA DRUMMING Feel the beat of ancient Dena drum songs and watch Dena culture come alive at one of our famous *Na-Ah* (Hand Games) tournaments, where visitors from far and wide come to compete and have fun as they have done for generations.

5 DINOSAUR TRACKS See the only known dinosaur fossil footprints in the Yukon, just a few kilometres away from Ross River, known to the Dena for generations and discovered by paleontologists in 1998.



Designer Sho Sho Esquiro draws on her heritage to create high fashion pieces.

Sho Sho Esquiro/Peter Jensen

Elder Robertson Dick checking fish nets.

Joshua Barichello



The original Ross River Footbridge was built during WW II.

Government of Yukon

Dena style mask, "Grandfather," carved by renowned Kaska Dena artist Dennis Shorty.

Christian Kuntz



CAMPBELL
REGION

COMMUNITY VOICES

THE LAND IS STILL TEACHING ME

As a kid, I felt peace on the land and connected to who I was as a Dene. It was learned from being with my grandparents and parents – hearing stories of how my ancestors lived before I was born, skinning out a caribou at 40 below with my ninety-year-old Grandpa Amos Dick, hunting ducks with my brother on an ancient river where my ancestors travelled, hunting grouse in spring with my uncle. The land is still teaching me to walk in a good way, to show respect to everything. Our respect for the land should mirror our respect towards one another. *Soga senla* – thank you.



Nāgōdīgá' (Sunrise)
Robby Dick
Joshua Barichello





TESLIN TLINGIT COUNCIL

Yak'ê ixhwsatini. Tlingit

It is good to see you!



Dugout canoes waiting to race across
Tás ten – Teslin Lake – during the Haa
Kusteeyi celebration in July 2017.

Erik Pinkerton

WE ARE the Inland Tlingit, descended from the *Taku Qan* of Taku River. The name Teslin derives from *tás ten*, meaning “long sewing sinew” in our language, aptly describing the 148-kilometre (92-mile) long and narrow lake. When you visit Teslin on the shores of our shimmering blue lake, you are sure to experience a profound sense of wonder, welcome and well-being. In the words of our esteemed Elder, the late Virginia Smarch, we have been living as “part of the land, part of the water” forever.

Our citizens rely on hunting, fishing and gathering to supply healthy foods, along with the spiritual connections to the land that contribute to our well-

being. We prize the salmon, which navigate the longest migration run in the world to return to us each summer.

We have been
living as “part of the
land, part of the
water” forever.

Our oral traditions tell of our people travelling from coastal Alaska inland to trade for hundreds of years. Our ancestors began living permanently in the Yukon in the 1800s, with more

families arriving in the past century. As a self-governing First Nation, we have developed a unique governance model incorporating our clan leadership and contemporary administrative processes to provide programs, services and cultural continuity for our community. We retain our traditional Tlingit clan structure with five clans: *Koghittan* – Raven, *Ishkeetaan* – Frog, *Yanyedi* – Wolf, *Deisheetaan* – Split Tail Beaver and *Dakl’aweidi* – Eagle.

Come see us, dance in our celebrations, drink from the pristine waters of our lake. We are proud to share *Haa Kusteeyi* – our Tlingit ways – with you!

ttc-teslin.com

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 TESLIN TLINGIT HERITAGE CENTRE Engage in Inland Tlingit cultural programs year-round. Our artists produce exquisite beadwork, carvings and many other products available for purchase at the gift shop.

2 GEORGE JOHNSTON MUSEUM Explore our community history as told through Elder George Johnston's photographs. Hear our stories about the Alaska Highway and other events from days gone by.
gjmuseum.yk.net

3 WILDLIFE GALLERY AT THE YUKON MOTEL Embrace the chance to get up close to our wildlife big and small – in complete comfort and safety!



Salmon, cranberries, beaver, moose, among others, are all part of a rich harvesting tradition for Teslin Tlingit people.
archbould.com



Artist weaving cedar bark strips to make a traditional cedar hat. archbould.com

4 GEORGE JOHNSTON TRAIL Stroll this delightful trail along the lake to see our evolving community. More adventurous hikers may want to explore the trails beyond town.

5 WINTER SPORTS AND MINI-RENDEZVOUS Our annual winter carnival is loads of fun for all ages, and our lake is a magnificent backdrop for skiing, snowshoeing or snowmobiling.

"Watchmens" mask carved by the late Teslin Tlingit artist Alex Dickson (circa 2006).
Government of Yukon



COMMUNITY VOICES

MY TLINGIT NAME IS ANYALAHASH

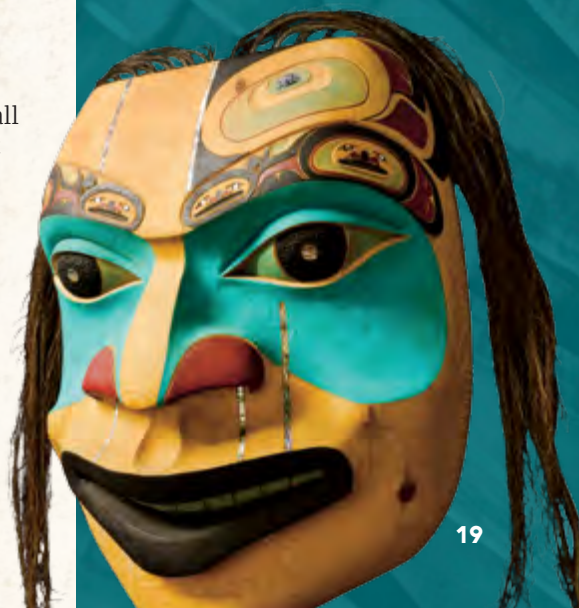
My name is Sam Johnston. I am the Ishkitàn Clan Leader in Teslin. My Tlingit name is *AnyaLahash*. I have done many things in my life, being Chief of our First Nation, then elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly and serving as the first Native Speaker of a legislature in North America. I've worked with youth on sports, archery, storytelling and dancing – always encouraging them to get an education. I've travelled across the world but in my eyes nothing is more beautiful than my very own home of Teslin. I am often around the community and always up to sharing a story or two! Enjoy your visit.



AnyaLahash,
Sam Johnston
Elder
[Fritz Mueller Visuals](http://FritzMuellerVisuals.com)




Clan poles representing the five Teslin clans welcome visitors to the Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre.
[Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre](http://TeslinTlingitHeritageCentre.com)





CARCROSS / TAGISH FIRST NATION

 The award-winning Inland Tlingit dance group The Dakhká Khwáan Dancers performing during their 10 year Anniversary Celebration in Carcross. Mark Rutledge

Yak'ê ixhwsatini. Tlingit *Dahts'eneh'j'h sùkùsen.* Tagish
It is good to see (all of) you.

OUR Carcross / Tagish First Nation ancestry includes Tagish Athapaskan and Inland Tlingit. We belong to six clans: the *Dak'laweidi* and *Yanyeidi* (Wolf Moiety) and *Deisheetaan*, *Gaanaxteidi*, *Ishkahitta* and *Kookhitta* (Crow Moiety). Our traditional lands include the Yukon River headwaters, ancient trails in the coastal mountains, and vast southern lakes surrounding Carcross.

Our ceremonies honour transitions from birth to adulthood to death, identifying relationships within family, clan and nation. Our art expresses spiritual connections with each other, the land, water and animals. Crests, totems and regalia represent our rich oral heritage and tradition of sharing.

There is so much happening in our land today to make our hearts sing. Visit our new Learning Centre with spectacular views of Nares Lake and the four sacred mountains. Hear

There is so much
happening in our
land today to make
our hearts sing.

Elders' stories about the beginning of time when Game Mother brought all the animals into this world. Learn about our modern government that manages lands, resources and

investments gained in our self-government agreements and works to build a healthy community. Our youngest citizens attend our daycare, watched over by our clan crests.

Come play for a day at our Carcross Commons. Sip a delicious latté, stroll through the shops, meet our people and visitors from around the world while kids are playing at the Game Mother Playground. Watch Master Carver Keith Wolfe Smarch create magnificent poles, masks and regalia. Breathe the fragrant aroma of cedar chips and listen to our ancestors' stories told through animal and human figures taking shape in his skillful hands.

We invite you to come soon to enjoy all the vibrancy of our world!

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 CARCROSS COMMONS A full day of activities awaits you in and around the thriving Commons with shops, cultural presentations, exhibits and a self-guided walking tour around Carcross.

destinationcarcross.ca

2 THE LEARNING CENTRE Participate in cultural programs year-round, including exhibits, special dance festivals and other celebrations.

3 MONTANA MOUNTAIN Hike or bike this local and international hot spot for a truly spectacular adventure and summit views of mountains, lakes and rivers.

The spectacular Carcross/Tagish First Nation Learning Centre opened in 2017.
Amélie Druillet



Master carver Keith Wolfe Smarch carves a ceremonial pole in the Carving Shed at Carcross Commons. *Frits Meyst*



Contemporary beadwork by Carcross/Tagish artist Heather Dickson of Dickson Designs.
Stewart Tizya

4 NARES LAKE AND THE FOUR SACRED MOUNTAINS Grab your camera and prepare for splendour, whatever the season. On calm summer days the lake mirrors surrounding mountains. In fall fiery colours flood the mountainsides. In winter the stately peaks are etched starkly against the sky. In spring migrating swans rest before resuming their epic migration to the Arctic tundra.



Montana Mountain is a world-class mountain biking destination that has long held sacred significance to Carcross/Tagish people.
Derek Crowe

5 CARCROSS DESERT Run barefoot across the smallest desert in the world and see the beautiful sand dunes coloured by flora unique to this true subarctic desert. Interpretive panels guide you through the fascinating stories surrounding the formation of the dunes.

"Shark and Man Transformation" carving from Tlingit artist Keith Wolfe Smarch.
Fritz Mueller Visuals

Tagish language area
Tlingit language area

Carcross • Tagish

SOUTHERN LAKES
REGION

COMMUNITY VOICES

I AM COMMITTED TO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

My Tlingit name is *Aan Goosh oo* – in English, Mark Wedge. I was born in Whitehorse and raised in Whitehorse and Carcross. My ancestry is Tagish, Tlingit and Caucasian. In our traditional way, I belong to my mother's *Deisheetaan* Clan of the Crow moiety. I served as *Khà Shàde Hèni* (Chief) of our First Nation and contributed to community socio-economic development with the Yukon Indian Development Corporation, *dāna Nāye Ventures*, the National Roundtable on the Economy and Environment, and the National Aboriginal Business Association. I am committed to restorative justice processes, training people throughout North America in using peace-making circles to resolve complex community issues.



Aan Goosh oo,
Mark Wedge
Elder and Former
Khà Shàde Hèni
C/TFN





KWANLIN DÜN FIRST NATION

Dákwänī'j yū shàw ghànīddhän. Southern Tutchone
We are happy to see (all of) you.

Sabrina Fred, Sean Smith and
Victoria Fred proudly wear their
traditional regalia in front of the
Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.
Paul Gowdie

KWANLIN is our Southern Tutchone name for the canyon that carries *Chu Níikwän* (Shining Waters) – the Yukon River into Whitehorse. *Kwanlin* means “water through the canyon” and references the jade-green water rushing through the tall basalt rock columns of what is now called Miles Canyon. *Dün* is our word for People.

The landscape of the Traditional Territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation is full of our origin histories. It tells of a time when glaciers and large lakes covered the area and speaks of how our people came to live here. This was the homeland of the original people of this place – the *Tagish Kwan*.

Our great grandparents saw tens of thousands of stampedeers arrive during the 1898 gold rush and they participated in the establishment of new settlements including Whitehorse. Our grandparents saw

We have a long
history of
welcoming people

many of our foot-trails merged into the Alaska Highway and other roadways during World War II. After the war our parents fought for our right to vote, hold land title and

educate our own children. Building on the ideas of our forbears, we signed our Self-Government and Land Claims Final Agreements in 2005.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation is now the largest landowner in Whitehorse. As an urban Self-Governing Nation we are thriving, working with our neighbours to create a sustainable, healthy and culturally rich environment for our children and future generations.

Our home is alive with history and we invite you to share in its beauty!

kwanlindun.com



TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 KWANLIN DÜN CULTURAL CENTRE Immerse yourself in our culture through exhibits, photography, tours, music and arts programs year-round. Located on a parcel of our settlement lands on the *Chu N'ikwän* (Yukon River) in downtown Whitehorse.

kdcc.ca

2 WALKING TRAILS Explore the many Kwanlin (Miles Canyon) trails and downtown waterfront paths, either on your own or with interpretive guides in summer, to experience the birds, flowers and stories of our land.

Digging Roots at the annual Blue Feather Music Festival.
Harry Kern

▲ A dugout canoe on display at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, made by Wayne Price and members of the Northern Cultural Expressions Society. *Fritz Mueller Visuals*

3 WHITEHORSE HYDRO DAM AND FISH LADDER See salmon migrating from the Pacific Ocean bypass the dam using the longest wooden fish ladder in the world. Interpretive displays explain their life cycle, the cultural importance of their annual return home, and our commitment to their survival.



▲ Hikers on ancient trail above waters of Kwanlin (Miles Canyon) near Whitehorse.
Paddy Pallin/Nathan Hendry

4 BLUE FEATHER MUSIC FESTIVAL Soar along with Indigenous performers from the Yukon and around the world at this vibrant fall festival, founded and organized by our citizens and youth.

bluefeathermusic.ca

5 KWANLIN KOYOTE CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS Go for a winter ski on groomed trails, just minutes from downtown. Kwanlin Dün youth built and maintain the Kwanlin Koyote ski trail as part of the Mt. McIntyre cross-country ski trail network.

William Carlick keeps the beat going on National Indigenous Peoples Day.
Alistair Maitland Photography

Ravenstail robe, "Grandmother's Time," by Kwanlin Dün Elder Ann Smith (1994).
Government of Yukon

Southern Tutchone language area
Tagish language area

Whitehorse

WHITEHORSE REGION

COMMUNITY VOICES

KWANLIN LOOKED PRETTY DIFFERENT BACK THEN

My Daddy brought me and my brother up here to Kwanlin – this canyon – in 1939, in June month. It looked pretty different back then before the dam. I was about five years old. He tell us the story right here about people coming through way back in 1898, white people. They had to bring all their supplies – rice, flour and sugar in sacks. No stores back then. My Daddy talk to us in Southern Tutchone language. He was born at Fish Lake. We were cutting wood over by the railroad for George Ryder – wood for the steamboats and heating people's homes in Whitehorse.

▶ *Jjáyá Tā, Louie Smith Elder*
Derek Crowe





Ta'an Kwäch'än Elder Gail Anderson
dancing with youth in 2012.
Fritz Mueller Visuals

TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN COUNCIL

Tàshäniidhj neni'l yu. Southern Tutchone (Laberge dialect)
I am overjoyed to see you.

GREETINGS from the Ta'an Kwäch'än. We are the people of the big lake north of Whitehorse. We call it Ta'an Män – the famed “marge of Lake LeBarge” in Robert Service’s poem. We have lived beside its sparkling waters for countless generations. We remain a land-based people to this day. While our headquarters are in Whitehorse, some of our citizens live at the small Jackfish Bay village on the south end of the lake and nearby is Helen’s Fish Camp where we hold gatherings for our whole nation.

Our timeless connections to this region are being revealed in new ways as melting ice patches in the southern Yukon yield Ice Age artifacts. We participate in ongoing studies by scientists, connecting our oral

traditions to the hunting implements exposed as glacial ice melts with rapidly warming temperatures. Beautifully crafted atlatl shafts, spear points and arrowheads provide

We have lived
beside its sparkling
waters for countless
generations.

concrete evidence of our ancestors’ skills and artistry. Their life as hunter-gatherers evolved as the landscape, animals and plants changed over time. Until the advent of the Klondike Gold Rush in the 1890s, our lifeways

remained the same. We still continue to follow a seasonal round of activities rooted in time-tested and shared knowledge of places and resources.

Today as a self-governing First Nation, we mix contemporary work with our traditional harvesting skills to make a living. We invest in businesses and service industries, and participate in joint management projects with government to protect heritage and wildlife. A Southern Tutchone Ta'an Dialect Language app is available for download on Google Play for Android devices; iPhone and iPad users can download it from the App Store. Enjoy your stay in Ta'an traditional territory.

taan.ca

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 LAKE LABERGE Camp by the crystal-clear waters of *Ta'an Män*. Turn in at the Lake Laberge campground sign (Km 225 Klondike Highway) for stunning views of the lake. Fish for lake trout, inconnu, grayling and pike from shore at the campground or by boat around *Nju Shäw* (Richtofen Island) in the centre of the lake. Be cautious on our big lake – fierce winds blow up suddenly.

2 FOX LAKE Take advantage of this lake's early freeze-up to access prime ice-fishing spots, or enjoy summer canoeing, boating and fishing on one of Yukon's most popular recreational lakes.

Azure blue waters and golden colours at *Ta'an Män* (Lake Laberge) in early fall.
Government of Yukon



3 SUMMER ACTIVITIES Hike around *Ta'an Män*, taking in all that is around you. Our people lived on food from nature for thousands of years. Try your hand at foraging for berries and dozens of edible plants. A word of caution: always identify a plant before eating, and consume in small quantities to test for allergic reactions.



Salmon drying at fish camp in late summer.

Ta'an Kwäch'an Council



Winter trails offer interesting vistas and wildlife tracks around *Ta'an Män* country.

Paul Gowdie

4 THIRTY MILE RIVER Launch your canoe for the adventure of a lifetime on this Canadian Heritage River. You'll be carried along on its fast-flowing currents past many relics of bygone days. Pull out at Carmacks after a few days, or paddle and drift all the way to Dawson City.

5 WINTER ACTIVITIES Bring your snowshoes or cross-country skis for fast-paced adventures on the vast expanses of *Ta'an Män*. Keep watch for signs indicating *Ta'an Kwäch'an* Settlement Land and enjoy your time here.

"*Tlingit Moon*" by Jared Kane draws on his Tlingit and Southern Tutchone heritage.

Eric James Soltys/Spirit Wrestler Gallery

Southern Tutchone language area

• *Ta'an Män*
• Whitehorse

WHITEHORSE REGION

COMMUNITY VOICES

I'VE SEEN MANY CHANGES

I attended residential school for eight years but never forgot my language. Later I taught Southern Tutchone in schools. I've seen many changes in Whitehorse. In the 1940s there were wooden sidewalks, a few small stores, cafés, hotels, the Old Log Church, RCMP detachment, school and hospital. There weren't many cars – mainly steamboats, dog teams, bush planes and the train. My grandfather, Frankie Jim, supplied wood for the steamboats. I learned our traditional ways from my grandparents at summer fish camps. I still teach children to catch and dry salmon, passing down our ways as they were passed on to me.



Nakhela, Hazel Bunbury Elder

John Bunbury





CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

Competition dance at the
Da Kų N  n Ts'  th  t festival.
CAFN

D  keyi kw   j  l. Southern Tutchone

Welcome to our country.

WE ARE the Shadh  la,   sh  yi y   kw  d  n (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations or CAFN). Our name derives from two of our historic settlements: Shadh  la (Champagne), on the Dezadeash River; and   sh  yi (Aishihik), at the Alsek River headwaters. CAFN has more than 1,200 D  n – this means “person” in D  kwanj   (Southern Tutchone), our traditional language. Landscape features in our country have both D  kwanj   and Tlingit names, with the latter being the language of trade during the 18th and 19th centuries. Many citizens also have Tlingit ancestral connections.

D  gh  tan (family) is the heart of our culture and way of life. In kw  dq (traditional) times, families worked together to provide for themselves

Come learn
about the
reawakening of
our culture!

with everyone contributing. Children grew up with and were taught by their grandparents and extended family members.

Our clan system, which is central to our identity and belonging, keeps us connected as a community. We have two clans: K  j  t (Crow) and Agunda (Wolf), with nakwat'a (potlatches) hosted by one of the clans and featuring a feast to honour a person, event or achievement.

Our D  n and Tlingit customs and traditions connect our past, present and future generations. After decades of difficult times, our culture is coming alive again – in the same way that the land comes alive each spring. Come learn about the reawakening of our culture!

cafn.ca

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 DA KU CULTURAL CENTRE

Prepare to be captivated by our *dän* (our people), *dän kéyi* (our land), *dän k'e* (our ways), and *Dákwanjè* (our language) at *Da Ku* (Our House). At 280 Alaska Highway in Haines Junction.

cafn.ca/da-ku-cultural-centre

2 YUKON AND PARKS CANADA VISITOR CENTRES

Get ready to explore! Here you'll find amazing Yukon art exhibits and a wealth of information about local trails, lakes, campgrounds and wildlife. Located in the Da Ku Cultural Centre.

3 WORLD-CLASS PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Hike in splendour or enjoy one of the stunning lakes in Kluane National Park and Reserve, Tatshenshini/Alsek Park or Kusawa (a Territorial Park in progress). We invite you to explore our backyard, part of one of the largest protected areas in the world.

Canoeing on Six Mile Lake with the mountains of Kluane National Park and Reserve in the background. CAFN



▲ Beaded mukluks made of home-tanned moosehide by Elder Sadie Brown.
Robin Armour Photography

4 CULTURAL EXPERTS

Experience our traditional way of life. Visit Kwäday Dän Kenji (Long Ago Peoples Place) near Shadhäla (Champagne) or Shakat Tun Wilderness Camp on the shores of Kluane Lake.

yukonfirstnationculture.com
shakattunadventures.com



▲ A visitor in a traditional structure at Kwäday Dän Kenji (Long Ago Peoples Place).
Derek Crowe

5 DA KU NÄN TS'ÉTHÈT FESTIVAL

Join us as performers, artists and craftspeople come together for this biennial celebration of drumming, song and dance. June 2019 and 2021 at the Da Ku Cultural Centre in Haines Junction.

Woodpecker by CAFN artist Frances Oles. CAFN



COMMUNITY VOICES

TSÜR KHEĻA KHĒN (WOODPECKER SONG)

Our traditional teachings say that noisy *tsür khēla* (woodpecker) "wakes up the land" each spring. The tapping of the drumstick on the wooden drum rim mimics the woodpecker and marks the beginning and end of this lively song.

Tsür Khēla Khēn – Woodpecker Song

*hey hee ya ho hey, hey hee ya ho hey
hey hee ya ho hey, Tsür khēla nàkwat 'āla
hey hee ya ho hey, hey hee ya ho hey
hey hee ya ho hey, Dàkeyj ts'an kwānājala
hee ya ho hey hey, hee ya ho hey
hey hee ya ho hey, Dāyenji shāwkwathana*

Wood-pecker an invitation
Our-country to all-to-come
Our-minds are very-good
(We're going to have a gathering)
(We're very happy)

To listen to the song, visit
cafn.ca/woodpecker-song

To honour the reawakening of our culture, Dákwanjè speakers worked with the Dákwakada Dancers to create the woodpecker khēn (song).





KLUANE FIRST NATION

Dá kwani'j yiw shàw ghànîddan. Southern Tutchone
We're happy to see you.

DÀNNCH'E – How are you?
Welcome to Á Tsi Keyí, meaning
“my grandfather’s country,” nestled
on the shores of the vast lake we call
Lhù'ààn Mân' (Kluane Lake).

Our citizens are *Lhù'ààn Mân' Ku Dañ* –
people of Kluane Lake. Our small
community stays actively involved
territorially, nationally and interna-
tionally via the Internet, satellite,
cellular telephone and postal
networks. We also stay connected
with travel through the Burwash
Airport and on the Alaska Highway.
Our citizens are progressive leaders
engaged in professional and social
enterprises at home and far beyond.
We strive to maintain high literacy,
encourage advanced education and
promote employability for all Kluane
First Nation citizens.

Our focus is on living well and
responsibly in an ever-changing
world. The bounty of Kluane
provides delicious healthy foods,

Our focus is
on living well and
responsibly in an
ever-changing world.

including fish, moose, small game,
edible roots and berries. With ample
summer daylight, local gardeners
harvest fresh vegetables. We are
pursuing solar and wind as green
energy options to reduce our




Magnificent *Llù'ààn Mân'* (Kluane Lake) in
early winter with *Tthechàl Ddhâl* (Sheep
Mountain) to the west. *Lance Goodwin*

dependence on diesel and generation
of greenhouse gases.

Our ancestors were fearless
trailblazers as hunters, guides and
outfitters. Today we are charting
new courses with self-government,
economic development, investment
in mining, partnerships in new
technologies, and participation
in management of Kluane National
Park and Wildlife Preserve and Reserve,
the *Asi Keyi* Natural Environment
Park and the Pickhandle Lake Habitat
Protection Area. In *Lhù'ààna* – Kloo
Lake area – you will find an outdoor
paradise to thrill your senses – glorious
vistas, crisp clean air, aromatic wild
sedges in summer, snow-draped
forests in winter. *Shàw Níthan* for
visiting our beautiful land.


kfn.ca


 Beaded baby moccasins made by Elder Agnes Johnson of Kluane First Nation.
Robin Armour Photography




TOP 5 THINGS TO DO


1 KLUANE MUSEUM Explore culture and nature including beautiful beaded clothing, wildlife displays, and interpretive talks. Gift shop open in summers.


2 DAY HIKING TRAILS Explore some of our beautiful and easy-to-access trails along Congdon Creek, Mines Creek, Nines Creek, Copper Joe Creek, Duke River, Burwash Creek and Quill Creek.


Mary Jane Johnson preparing moose meat for drying at Lake Creek in late summer.
Alistair Maitland Photography





3 THACHÄL DHÄL VISITOR CENTRE Use spotting scopes to follow rare Dall sheep on the mountains above this intriguing site in Kluane National Park and Reserve. Located one hour north of Haines Junction on the Alaska Highway.

Whitefish drying over a smoky fire at Lhù'ààn Mân' (Kluane Lake) in summer.
Lance Goodwin





4 DÄN DÄY 'EDĚSĚDÄYE KÜ – KLUANE FIRST NATION ADMINISTRATION OFFICE Visit a modern First Nation government at work and see displays on our growing economic investments.



5 KLUANE LAKE FISHING Test your angling skills to catch lake trout, inconnu, pike and grayling, then sit back and enjoy a feast well earned on Kluane's beautiful shores.



Traditional tools of the Southern Tutchone people on display at the Kluane Museum of History.
Government of Yukon


 Dall sheep resting in the Kluane Range near Burwash Landing.
Lance Goodwin

Southern Tutchone language area


 Burwash Landing

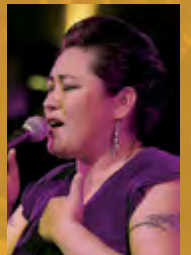
KLUANE REGION

COMMUNITY VOICES

IT'S HERE THAT I AM INSPIRED TO WRITE SONGS

There is a point along the Alaska Highway where you catch your first glimpse of Lhù'ààn Mân' (Kluane Lake). I look forward to that vista every time I drive home – understanding I am more part of this land than it is part of me. I travel to many places but none fills me with the wonder that home does. It's here that I am inspired to write songs. This land, people, animals, cycle of nature, history, outside forces, and challenges are Kluane's gifts. Wind from ice and ocean blows away the shell we hide behind leaving us feeling renewed and inspired.


 Diyet, singer/songwriter
Fritz Mueller Visuals





WHITE RIVER FIRST NATION

Nohts'eneh'ij tsin'ij choh ts'enin_hän. Upper Tanana

Dàye yésóots'enindhän, dàkhwäts'enè'in yū. Northern Tutchone

We are happy to see (all of) you.



Patrick Johnny, Doris John, Jenny Sanford, and Marilyn Sanford drumming and singing at Old Snag Village.
Christian Kuntz

BEAVER CREEK is home to White River First Nation, the most westerly community in Canada bordering on Alaska, U.S.A. Our two traditional languages – Northern Tutchone and Upper Tanana – are spoken by Elders and taught to youth. We maintain ties to our relatives in the Yukon and Alaska. Before the Alaska Highway our people travelled freely back and forth with no barriers and shared resources across the region.

Connections among people in these lands extend back through countless generations, demonstrated at the Little John archaeology site a few kilometres north of town. Bone, copper, obsidian and ochre artifacts date to 14,000 years before present, a significant source for telling the story of early human occupations in our Traditional Territory.

Our people lived off this land, travelling in small family groups. In the past century, we were affected by outside historical events.

Connections among
people in these
lands extend back
through countless
generations.

Government surveyors cut lines through the forest in the early 1900s to mark the boundary. Our village at Snag served as an airfield during WW II and recorded the coldest temperature in Canadian history at

-63°C. The Alaska Highway brought continuous traffic across our lands and the establishment of Beaver Creek.

Through profound changes, our people have continued to follow traditional pursuits. Hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking, and mushroom and root harvesting provide nutritious foods. We also administer heritage, wildlife and social programs through our First Nation government, headquartered in Beaver Creek.

We invite you to visit our piece of Paradise, where winter brings clear night skies – perfect for seeing northern lights – and summer flowers provide a warm welcome to cheer your drive.

whiteriverfirstnation.com

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 BEAVER CREEK VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE Explore our history and make this either your first or last stop in our border town, depending upon which way you are travelling.

2 FAR WEST PLAZA Stroll the community walkway that celebrates Canada's most westerly community. See many features including the Church of Our Lady of Grace established in 1962.

3 CULTURE CAMPS Keep your eyes open for signs announcing details of the various culture camps our First Nation hosts throughout the year.

Northern Tutchone Elder Agnes Winzer displaying her exquisite beadwork.
Derek Crowe



Sid Vander Meer Sr. at his Bordertown Garage and Museum.
Government of Yukon



"The Pylon" features beautiful beading on a pylon by Upper Tanana artist Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé (2015).
Alistair Maitland Photography

4 BORDERTOWN GARAGE AND MUSEUM Step into the past at this hidden gem. Browse the buildings and discover an extensive collection of Alaska Highway and gold rush-era memorabilia.



Spring planting at Beaver Creek Community Greenhouse. *Government of Yukon*

5 COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE Catch a glimpse into the growing movement to enhance our northern food security. Stop by our summer greenhouse and see northern food production in action.

Traditional birchbark baskets crafted by White River Northern Tutchone artist Christine Sam.
Fritz Mueller Visuals



Upper Tanana language area
Northern Tutchone language area

Beaver Creek

KLUVANE REGION

COMMUNITY VOICES

GROWING UP IN THE BUSH WAS SO MUCH FUN

I was born at Marilyn Lake about 15 minutes away from the Alaska Highway. Growing up in the bush was so much fun with Mom, Grandma, and my sister Bessie. I wish that bad thing hadn't happened to me [residential school] because I would've stayed there. We had no fear of bears, nothing. I wanted to move back to Daddy's place. Live on the land so my kids could learn too. I want my grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren to be proud to be First Nation. Be proud of who you are and be proud to be White River First Nation.

Marilyn John Elder
Christian Kuntz





LITTLE SALMON CARMACKS FIRST NATION



Little Salmon Carmacks citizen Erin Mitchell scraping a moosehide at the Tagé Cho Hudān Interpretive Centre.

Trisha Johnnie

Aniyi isheyi shiz. Nu ta Datsun zho shi. Northern Tutchone

I am very happy you come to my country because
I am glad to see you. May you go safely over many
windfalls in your lifetime.

THE Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation is based today at Carmacks on the Yukon River. In earlier times, we travelled with the seasons across our traditional territories to hunt, fish and gather foods needed for survival.

In summer our people have fish camps along the Yukon River to harvest and dry two species of salmon – the King and Chum – migrating upriver from the Bering Sea. Until recent decades the fish returned by the tens of thousands each year, providing a reliable, plentiful and delicious source of protein that kept us healthy and happy. Now we find our King Salmon fishery is severely depleted, with much smaller fish and drastically reduced numbers. We are working

with Indigenous groups in Alaska and the Yukon to study the problems facing the salmon in order to prevent further degradation or even extinction of these magnificent fish.

Until recent decades
the fish returned
by the tens of
thousands each year.

Our oral traditions are strong and timeless. Most important was and is our Northern Tutchone language that encapsulates the long-standing

wisdom of our people – place names that point to particular resources, landmarks to guide our travels, social terms and concepts to help us live well, supporting each other through dark cold winters and bright intense summers. Our Elders' stories describe the giant animals that shared the land with us and detailed accounts of the methods used to hunt them.

In our language we don't have a word for goodbye. As our Elders say when visitors leave: *Hutl'an nanùch'in hé* "we'll see you again!"

lscfn.ca

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 TAGÉ CHO HUDĀN INTERPRETIVE CENTRE Explore the first Yukon First Nation cultural centre and be charmed by its authentic displays and enthusiastic staff telling the stories of our people. A walking trail along the river offers more exhibits of our traditional ways of living on the land.

2 LITTLE SALMON CARMACKS GREENHOUSE Marvel at what grows under the midnight sun! Every summer our local market gardeners offer delicious organic produce at the Farmers' Market. Watch for signs to get dates, times and directions.

King salmon swimming upstream in the Yukon River near Carmacks.
Peter Mather



3 TTHI NĀDAZHE – FIVE FINGER RAPIDS TRAIL See the flowers, birds and insects that share our world in summer – and perhaps catch sight of a bear or moose in the distance. A viewing platform by the highway at the top of the trail offers interpretive panels and beautiful vistas across the wide expanse of the Yukon River valley – perfect for shutterbugs! The trail heads down a flight of stairs with more interpretive signs and on to the river.



Little Salmon Carmacks Elder Gertie Tom shows her incredible beadwork on a pair of moosehide mittens.
Government of Yukon

4 LITTLE SALMON CARMACKS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Visit our government headquarters and learn about our contemporary programs as a self-governing First Nation.



Fall colours at Tthi Nādzazhe (Five Finger Rapids) on the Yukon River. *Derek Crowe*

5 LITTLE SALMON LAKE CAMPGROUND Camp by the waters of Little Salmon Lake for the ultimate wilderness adventure, accessible from the Campbell Highway.

Beaded flowers and moose hair tufting by Twyla Wheeler.
Heather Jones



COMMUNITY VOICES

I WAS RAISED BY MY GRANDMA IN THE BUSH

My Northern Tutchone name, *Halaleja*, means "So rich – always have porcupine." I was raised by my Grandma in the bush, travelling from Little Salmon to *Tlu Tli* (meaning "bundle of fish"), our name for Frenchman Lake, and along the Yukon River. We hunted moose, set nets for fish and gathered berries. We always had lots of good food in those days. My Dad worked at wood camps and trapping so we also bought flour, sugar, dried fruits and tea at the store. Grandma was very strict and always wanted me to speak our language so now I am happy I can teach it still to people today.

Halaleja, Agnes Charlie Elder
Trisha Johnnie





Selkirk Spirit Dancers
prepare for a performance
at the Sacred Fire Pit,
Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.
Fritz Mueller Visuals

SELKIRK FIRST NATION

Dàye yésóots'enindhän, dàkhwäts'enè'in yū. Northern Tutchone
We are happy to see (all of) you.

OUR traditional home and our nation's namesake Fort Selkirk is at the confluence of the Yukon and Pelly rivers. Renowned as a meeting place for Indigenous people for thousands of years, there is a rich archeological record providing ample evidence of their activities. Today it is a protected heritage site that we co-manage as a park with the Yukon government.

Most Selkirk First Nation citizens live at Pelly Crossing today, shifted to the highway corridor by government in the 1950s when roads replaced steamboat transportation on the river. Known as the "Heart of the Northern Tutchone," our community works

closely with relatives at Mayo and Carmacks to preserve our common language and cultural knowledge. We have a special interest in

Our community
works closely with
relatives at Mayo
and Carmacks

documenting *Dooli* – the traditional laws of our people to provide a firm cultural foundation for contemporary life in a fast-changing world.

We actively support our youth of the Selkirk Spirit Dancers who are learning our traditional drumbeats, songs and dances from Elders. Other artists focus on sewing, beading, and carving regalia for the dancers. Not so long ago, our great grandparents were expert builders of birchbark canoes and baskets, fish traps, hunting gear and other tools. We are reviving these skills among youth so they will not be lost to future generations.

We have a longstanding tradition of extending a warm welcome and help to visitors. We invite you to stay awhile with us. You'll be glad you did.

selkirkfn.ca



Hawk Human Mask,
by Eugene Alfred.
Fritz Mueller Visuals

Heritage log buildings
at Fort Selkirk on the
Yukon River.
Peter Mather



Jerry Alfred performs at the Adäka Cultural
Festival in Whitehorse.
Heather Jones

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 BIG JONATHAN HOUSE Visit this replica of our former Chief's Fort Selkirk home at Pelly Crossing, then check outside for artist demonstrations of sewing, beading and carving.

2 PELLY WALKING TOUR Meet local citizens along the trail that skirts the river; visit the community greenhouse and garden; stop by the Waterfront Park, aptly named "Where Friends Meet," then continue over to the Selkirk First Nation Administration Building.

3 FORT SELKIRK Step onto shore and into the past at this perfectly preserved townsite. Cabins, churches, trading post and archaeological sites immerse you in our world of Indigenous trade networks, fur trade, gold rush and sternwheeler history. Don't miss this jewel on the Yukon River.



Big Jonathan House Heritage Centre at
Pelly Crossing. Derek Crowe

4 PELLY RIVER Cross the bridge and check out the vista at the top of the hill. Interpretive signs convey the many threads of history woven together at this storied location.

5 PELLY RIVER CROSSING CAMPGROUND No need to go farther than our family-friendly campground on the edge of the river.

Beautiful beaded hummingbird
purse by Selkirk First Nation
artist Kaylyn Baker.
Manitobah Mukluks



KLONDIKE
REGION

COMMUNITY VOICES

FATHER FOR THREE THINGS IN LIFE

My traditional name, *Ta Ché Te*, means "Father for three things in life." I have done many different things. Travelling on the land with my parents, I spoke Northern Tutchone until I was taken to residential school. I came home in summers so never forgot my culture. I have been a trapper, dog musher, wilderness guide with horses, land claims negotiator, international Salmon Treaty Committee member, and cultural researcher. I still hunt, fish and travel on the land. Much has changed but we hold dearly the utilization of our lands and our way of life – a must for the survival of our Selkirk people.



Ta Ché Te, Roger Alfred
Elder
Derek Crowe





TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN

Njhè Dähch'e Shò Tr'inläy. Hän

We are happy that you have come to visit.

Hän Singers welcoming guests at
Moosehide Gathering.
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

WALK the streets of Dawson City and you'll meet our citizens whose contemporary lifeways are proudly rooted in our heritage. Our citizens continue to follow the timeless traditions of hunting and gathering on the land and teaching our youth valuable subsistence skills and cultural practices. Our homes are built by our progressive housing program. We are engaged in every aspect of community education and well-being.

We have lived around the big rivers of the Yukon interior for thousands of years. Our culture was strong and vibrant and we thrived and survived on our own terms. Newcomers trickled into our lands gradually in the 1800s,

then in a massive wave as thirty thousand stampeder arrived in 1897–98.

Moosehide is our
home away from home
and our connection
to this place
remains strong

Our esteemed Chief Isaac lessened the negative impacts of the newcomers by moving our families downriver to Moosehide Village and safeguarding the Hän songs with Alaskan relatives.

For the next one hundred years our people and resources suffered many great hardships.

We have worked hard to re-establish a healthy equilibrium and a new economic base for our community. Fittingly, our land claims treaty forged a new way for us in 1998, exactly a century after the gold rush.

Today, Moosehide is our home away from home and our connection to this place remains strong. We gather at Moosehide every second summer to celebrate our culture, rejuvenate our language and replenish our spirits. We welcome visitors to join us for feasts, stories, dancing and drumming in the spirit of friendship and reciprocity.

trondek.ca

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 DÄNOJÀ ZHO CULTURAL CENTRE Explore our world and gain fresh perspectives on the gold rush with a *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in* guided tour, a short film, hands-on cultural activities, bannock making, and a gift shop full of locally made beaded slippers, arts and crafts.

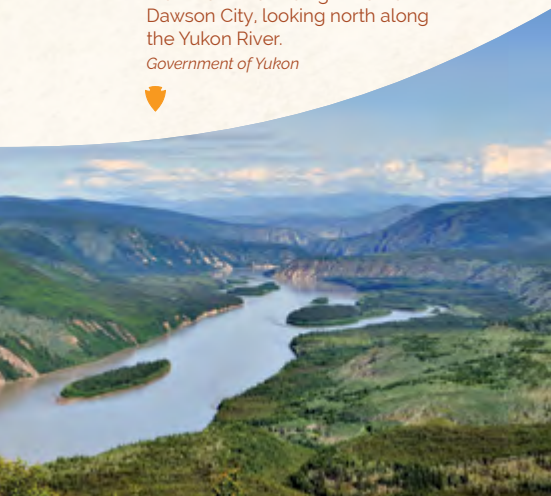
trondekheritage.com/danoja-zho



Moccasins with contemporary beadwork of a berry patch, made by Hän artist Jackie Olson.
Jackie Olson

2 MOOSEHIDE GATHERING Celebrate with us at this biennial *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in* gathering that brings people together to share our heritage, culture and traditions.

View from the Midnight Dome in Dawson City, looking north along the Yukon River.
Government of Yukon



A heritage interpreter at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.
Government of Yukon/J Kennedy



4 TR'OCHEK LOOKOUT Hear the story of this vibrant Hän fish camp and the role it played in the survival of our people as told through interpretive panels at this National Historic Site at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers.

3 THE NINTH AVE TRAIL AND THE CROCUS BLUFF TRAIL Walk, bike, ski or snowshoe the Ninth Ave Trail that connects with Crocus Bluff Trail, the Midnight Dome Trail and the Moosehide Trail (limited access).

5 JOE HENRY HIGHWAY Head north to Tombstone Territorial Park and the Blackstone River on the traditional travel route of our renowned Elders Joe and Annie Henry. Known to some as the Dempster Highway, to us it will always be Joe Henry's Highway, filled with vistas, caribou and birds to tempt your camera.



Chief Isaac in his regalia at Dawson City, August 1924.
Yukon Archives, Claude and Mary Tidd fonds, 77/19, #7283

Taste a cup of bush tea at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre and the Tombstone Interpretive Centre.
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in



KLONDIKE
REGION

Dawson City

Hän language area

COMMUNITY VOICES

WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF WELCOMING PEOPLE


My name is Angie Joseph-Rear. My parents are Joe and Susan Joseph and I grew up at Moosehide Village and in Dawson City. I am a beader and a hunter, a mother and a former Chief, a Hän speaker in training and a residential school survivor. I have worked for *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in*, my Nation, all my life. We have a long history of welcoming people into our territory. It is *Tr'ëhudë* – our traditional law – to care for those who travel these lands with us. We share our skills and knowledge, learn from each other – that is how we move forward and maintain good relationships.

Angie Joseph-Rear
Elder
Andrea Magee





FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYAK DUN


Persis Hager, at her family's
fish camp on the Stewart River.
Frits Meyst

Dàye yésóots'enindhän, dàkhwäts'enè'in yū. Northern Tutchone
We are happy to see (all of) you.

MAYO is the main community for the Na-Cho Nyak Dun, which means “Big River People” in our Northern Tutchone language. Closely linked to our relatives at Pelly Crossing and Carmacks, we are all part of the Northern Tutchone Council, through which we undertake many programs for language revitalization, traditional arts, documenting cultural practices and education.

Our name defines who we have been since the beginning of time. Na-Cho Nyak is our name for the Stewart River. Big rivers are where we have always lived, travelling extensively to make a living, navigating rivers

and lakes, big and small in finely crafted birchbark canoes, mooseskin boats and rafts.

Our name defines
who we have
been since the
beginning of time.

When our region boomed with gold and silver mining in the early 1900s, we moved to a site downriver from Mayo, known today as “the Old

Village.” We had a church and school there, living very happily in our own ways for more than 50 years. The river eroded that site and amenities in Mayo brought us into town in the 1950s. We remember the Old Village fondly and go back as often as possible for ceremonies and celebrations.

While we pursue contemporary opportunities we never forget our traditional values and skills. Many people are fine artists producing exquisite beadwork, porcupine quillwork, moosehair tufting, carving, music and other arts. We’ll give you a warm welcome when you come to Mayo to see it all in person.

nndfn.com

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 BINET HOUSE MUSEUM Explore our culture and learn about the rich mining history of the Mayo region. Located in a restored 1920s heritage building on 2nd Ave.

2 NA-CHO NYAK DUN GOVERNMENT HOUSE Our leaders were active throughout the era of land claims negotiations, advocating strongly for self-government and the retention of Indigenous rights on settlement lands in the 1993 Umbrella Final Agreement. Visit our contemporary government headquarters and hike the nearby bluff trail.

3 MAYO ARTS FESTIVAL Celebrate with us. Every summer our artists and musicians rev up our town with beautiful art, lively tunes and good food.

Elder Jimmy Johnny calls a moose with a birchbark horn on the Stewart River.
Frits Meyst



Artisan market at the annual Mayo Arts Festival.
Jim Tredger



Stunning porcupine quill work by Northern Tutchone artist Nancy Hager.
Christian Kuntz

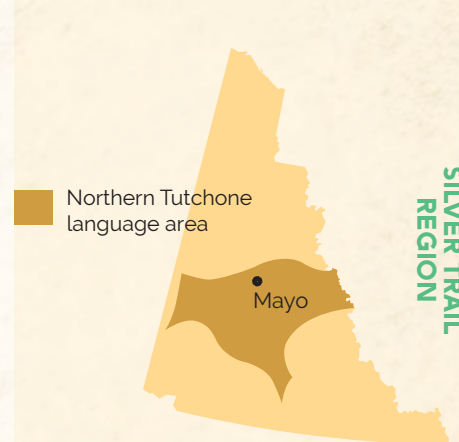


Fish camp at Fraser Falls on the Stewart River. *Frits Meyst*

4 THE OLD VILLAGE Hop in a boat with a local guide to the Old Village to experience the peace and serenity of our big river.

5 PEEL WATERSHED For the ultimate wilderness adventure, travel through the Peel Watershed by canoe or boat. We cherish the *Teetl'it Gwinjik*, known around the world by its English name as the Peel River. Massive efforts to protect it from unwanted industrial development were spearheaded by northern Indigenous people and conservation advocates, including ourselves.

Beaded purse and card holder by Northern Tutchone artist Florence Moses.
Fritz Mueller Visuals



SILVER TRAIL REGION

COMMUNITY VOICES

I GREW UP IN THE OLD VILLAGE DOWNRIVER

My name is Lena Malcolm. My mother was Jessie Lightning, my dad Billy Malcolm. They walked all the way to Dawson so I could be born at St. Mary's Hospital. My dad carried me and a big bag of dried meat back home. In those days – no road, no car. I grew up in the Old Village downriver from Mayo. At Christmas we all go to church and have tea afterwards. At night everybody go to Ella Moses house for big party. Lots of people dancing, drumming and singing, having good time. You can still see the Old Village across the river – walk along the path from the new Na-Cho Nyak Dun Government House.



Lena Malcolm
Elder
First Nation of Na-Cho
Nyak Dun



VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION



The Porcupine Caribou
Herd has the longest land
migration-route in the world.

Peter Mather

Nakhwanyàa'in geenjit shòh iidilii. *Gwich'in*

We are happy to see (all of) you.

TODAY, Old Crow is the home community for the *Vuntut Gwitchin* – People of the Lakes. We have strong family ties connecting all our communities, including other *Gwich'in* nations in Alaska and the Northwest Territories. This has been so for centuries.

We love to meet and connect for trade and celebration, and to seek harmony with one another. This is called *Gwiyiinjì' ihłak* meaning “one mind.” Long ago people congregated in times of plenty to travel and work together, singing their beautiful songs to make their work less toilsome. They worked together in almost telepathic unison.

We use our connection to the animals, the environment and celestial regions to follow game, make good decisions, and make predictions. This is the land

*The Gwich'in
and the caribou
exchanged pieces
of their hearts.*

where our families operated caribou fences until the mid 1800s, totally reliant on the land and its bounty. Our *Gwich'in* oral traditions say that humans and the caribou were

once relatives and could easily communicate with each other. However, separation was inevitable and when the split happened, the *Gwich'in* and the caribou exchanged pieces of their hearts. Many times, when a kill occurs, the successful hunt is attributed to the fact that the caribou was a relative that gave its life to provide sustenance to the community.

If we share when possible, if we help people in need, if we find ways to work and coexist together, we will increase our likelihood for prosperity as a nation. This is the *Gwich'in* way. Come see our world as we see it and hear our stories first hand.

vgfn.ca

High-top beaded slippers with rabbit fur made by renowned Vuntut Gwitchin Elder Fanny Charlie (2003).
Government of Yukon



TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

1 CROW MOUNTAIN ROAD Take in spectacular scenery and clean fresh air as you hike up Crow Mountain Road. Go to the top for an awe-inspiring experience.

2 COMMUNITY LIFE Hear Elders' stories, chat with residents, participate in community activities and experience first-hand how we are adapting to an ever-changing environment, while working to save our nearly extinct Gwich'in language.

3 PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD With a range about the size of the United Kingdom, we can't guarantee a sighting of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, one of the last remaining healthy barren ground herds in North America. But you may see them or other animals and birds on their amazing migrations across our lands.

oldcrow.ca/caribou.htm

Elders Bella Greenland, the late Peter Josie and Joseph Kaye join in good times at the 2016 Gwich'in Gathering in Old Crow.

Peter Mather



4 DOG MUSHING Give it a go! There is no better fun than dog mushing in a place like Old Crow.

5 JOHN TIZYA CENTRE Explore our cultural centre with its interpretive exhibits, books, artifacts and, best of all, our great staff and their entertaining stories. The centre is our foundation, the point from which we will preserve, promote and evolve with our cultural base.



Youth drying salmon at a fish camp on the Porcupine River.
Peter Mather



We still share the strongest connection with the caribou.



NORTH YUKON
REGION

COMMUNITY VOICES

LANGUAGE IS THE KEY TO ALL

For thousands of years we have prospered here – trading, dancing and singing through the challenges of our Arctic existence. *Juk gweendoo* (today), we are doing our best, not just to preserve, but to bring back our language and to evolve with it into the future. Language is the key to all. Eventually, it will be language that allows the human race to accomplish things we can't even dream of today. This will only happen if we preserve our remaining endangered Indigenous languages. The more we learn our language, the more we begin to see things in a different light.

▶ Brandon Kyikavichik
Interpreter at the
John Tizya Centre
VGFN



ENGAGE

LOCAL BUSINESS LISTINGS

PRACTICAL MATTERS



Destination Carcross

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T: (867) 393-2356
info@destinationcarcross.ca
www.destinationcarcross.ca

Carcross will astonish you with its incredible scenery, beach and mountain biking trails. Discover our artisans' boutiques, restaurant and gourmet coffee shop at the Commons. Open May to September.



Klondike Visitors Association

DAWSON CITY

1102 Front Street
T: (867) 993-5575
kva@dawson.net
www.dawsoncity.ca

We love Dawson City, and you will too. We invite you to discover the attractions, events and reasons we're one of the last extraordinary places in the world.



Westmark Inn Dawson City

DAWSON CITY

Fifth Avenue and Harper Street
T: 1-800-544-0970
info@westmarkhotels.com
www.westmarkhotels.com

With spacious and comfortable accommodations, the Westmark Inn is situated in the heart of downtown Dawson City. The hotel features turn-of-the-century rooms, outdoor deck, lounge and restaurant.

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ENJOY 7 days of artistic & cultural programming
PARTICIPATE in more than 50 workshops
LEARN from Elders, culture-bearers, and artists
SHOP in our retail fine art gallery & gift shop
WATCH artists and performers demonstrate their talents
CELEBRATE with us — All are welcome!

LATE JUNE TO EARLY JULY

KWANLIN DŪN CULTURAL CENTRE
WHITEHORSE, YUKON

The Adäka Cultural Festival
is proudly produced by:



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adakafestival.ca

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PRACTICAL MATTERS



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Council of Yukon First Nations

WHITEHORSE

2166 Second Avenue
T: (867) 393-9200
communications.officer@cyfn.net
www.cyfn.ca

The Council of Yukon First Nations' mandate is to serve as a political advocacy organization to protect the rights, titles and interests of First Nations holding traditional territories in the Yukon.



Council of Yukon First Nations

On behalf of the Council of Yukon First Nations, I would like to welcome all visitors to the Yukon Territory. The Yukon has 14 unique First Nations and I encourage visitors to learn and engage in all aspects of Yukon First Nation's culture. Take the time to visit one of the First Nation Cultural & Interpretive Centres like Dänöjà Zhò Cultural Centre in Dawson City, Da Ky "Our House" in Haines Junction or enrich yourself in local art at the Carcross Commons. I encourage you to embrace Yukon First Nation's culture in all its beauty.

- Grand Chief
Peter Johnston



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Northern Native Broadcasting Yukon

WHITEHORSE

#260 – 2237 Second Avenue

T: (867) 668-6629

info@nnby.ca

www.chonfm.com

NNBY operates CHON FM, and has a 20-year collection of original Yukon First Nations television programming. CHON FM, 98.1 in Whitehorse and 90.5 in the communities. “The beat of a different drummer.”

Tourism and Culture – Visitor Information Centre

WHITEHORSE

T: (867) 667-3084

1-800-661-0494

vic.whitehorse@gov.yk.ca

www.travelyukon.com

There are six Visitor Information Centres connected throughout Yukon. Let us assist you with planning the perfect day trip, weekend getaway or extended holiday for yourself or your visiting guests.



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1109 Front Street

T: (867) 633-7245

1-800-343-7373

wpyr@northwestel.net

www.wpyr.com

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2018

15th MOOSEHIDE GATHERING

A weeklong celebration of culture
July 23rd - 29th

20th anniversary of signing our Land Claims and Self-Governing Agreements

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in welcomes everyone!

At Moosehide Village
3km from Dawson City

- PERFORMANCES
- STORYTELLING
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- DRUMMING
- DANCING
- SINGING



45th anniversary of the presentation of Together Today for our Children Tomorrow by Yukon Chiefs in Ottawa

Information at
www.trondek.ca

AUTHENTIC CHARACTER



Photo: Emiro Foto / R Services







OUR STORY THROUGH TIME

The following is an abbreviated glimpse of the long history of Yukon First Nations people and our ancestors on this land.

When the World Began

Crow brought light and made the world together with Wolf, Animal Mother and other storied beings.

The Ice Age

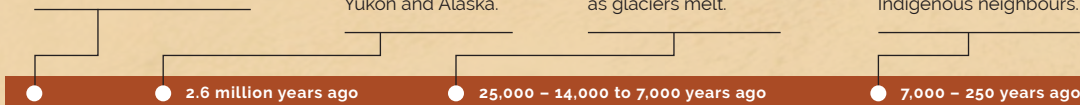
Vast sheets of ice cover all of North America except Beringia in northern Yukon and Alaska.

First Peoples

Early ancestors live in unglaciated Klondike and Old Crow regions, and in southern Yukon as glaciers melt.

Kwāday Kwādan (Long Ago People)

Yukon First Nations ancestors live from the land and trade with Indigenous neighbours.



ARTS AND CULTURE



Tagé Cho Hudän Interpretive Centre

CARMACKS

Past and present culture of the Northern Tutchone. Fascinating exhibits with rare tools, traditional outfits and more! World's only mammoth snare diorama! Local crafts for sale. Walking trail. Open Monday to Saturday, 8:30 am to 6 pm.



Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre

DAWSON CITY

1131 Front Street
(Across from Dawson Visitor Centre)
T: (867) 993-7100 ext 500
cultural.centre@trondek.ca

Dänojà Zho hosts guided gallery and walking tours, hands-on programs and cultural events and activities. Tickets are \$7.35 and are valid for two days. The gift shop is filled with original First Nation and northern gifts.



Moosehide Gathering

DAWSON CITY

Moosehide Village
(3 km from Dawson City)
T: (867) 993-7100
moosehide@trondek.ca
www.trondek.ca

Moosehide Gathering is a biennial celebration of Indigenous Culture. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in welcomes everyone. Contact for volunteer or sponsorship opportunities.



Da Kų Cultural Centre

HAINES JUNCTION

280 Alaska Highway (Mile 1016)
T: (867) 634-3307
daku@cafn.ca
www.cafn.ca/da-ku-cultural-centre

Da Kų "Our House" showcases traditional and modern arts by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations people. Featuring harvesting methods and various structures that show life on the land. With the biennial Nän Ts'éthhèt Dance Festival.

Binet House Museum

MAYO

304 Second Avenue
T: (867) 996-2926
mayo@northwestel.net
www.villageofmayo.ca

Come visit the Binet House Museum in Mayo which houses a collection of historical photos, interpretive information, information about gold and silver mining, medical artifacts and local crafts. Open late May to mid-Sept.

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Built in 1898 during the Klondike Gold Rush, this narrow gauge railroad is an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

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Coming of the Cloud People

Tlingit traders bring first European goods to the Yukon followed by white traders and prospectors in the late 1800s.

1780s – 1896

Disruption and Displacement

The Klondike Gold Rush, white settlement, Alaska Highway construction, residential schools and other government policies bring turmoil.

1896 – 1973

Reclamation

Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow manifesto leads to 1993 Umbrella Final Agreement and 11 modern treaties.

1973 – 2007

Resurgence

Yukon First Nations governments, arts, cultural practices, cultural centres, economic development, and entrepreneurial initiatives grow and thrive.

2007 – present

ARTS AND CULTURE



John Tizya Centre

OLD CROW

T: (867) 996-3261 ext 269

jtc@vgfn.net

www.vgfn.ca

Vuntut Gwitchin cultural exhibits, information and tours located on the bank of the Porcupine River in Old Crow, Yukon. Open year-round 9 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Closed weekends and holidays.



Big Jonathan House Heritage Centre

PELLY CROSSING

Klondike Highway

isaact@selkirkfn.com

www.selkirkfn.com

The Heritage Centre is a replica of the original house in Fort Selkirk. It tells stories of Northern Tutchone people and artifacts, displays traditional clothing and structures, and sells local art.



George Johnston Museum

TESLIN

Mile 776 (Historic Mile 804)

Alaska Highway

T: (867) 390-2550 (June to August)

manager.teslinhms@gmail.com (year-round)

www.gjmuseum.yk.net

Rare Tlingit First Nation artifacts, brilliant ceremonial clothes, film and dioramas; U.S. Army highway-era radio range; and the story of a car in the roadless wilderness on an ice highway. RV parking.



BIG JONATHAN HOUSE HERITAGE CENTER IN Pelly Crossing



- Local Indigenous artwork
- Traditional activities
- Exhibits
- Documentary of Ft. Selkirk "Voices of the Past"
- Artists on Location

yukonmuseums.ca/cultural

bjc@selkirkfn.com | 867-537-3150

Open Mid-May to Mid-September M-F: 9am - 7pm

VISIT DA KŪ OUR HOUSE

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daily, 8:30 am - 8:00 pm

October - April

M - F, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

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Come learn the story of the Champagne & Aishihik First Nations people

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Da Kū Cultural Centre



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ARTS AND CULTURE



Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre

TESLIN

T: (867) 390-2156 ext. 332
lisa.dewhurst@ttc-teslin.com
www.teslintlingitheritagecentre.com

Enjoy our wonderful Inland Tlingit culture on the beautiful shores of Teslin Lake. Visit our gift shop and exhibits, and explore our rich heritage and culture through daily programming and tours.



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www.aromaborealis.com

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artadventures@gov.yk.ca
www.yukonartguide.ca

The Government of Yukon's Arts Section supports and encourages the development of visual, literary and performing arts in Yukon and helps to enhance public appreciation of the arts.



Gwaandak Theatre Society

WHITEHORSE

6 – 1114 Front Street
T: (867) 393-2676
info@gwaandaktheatre.ca
www.gwaandaktheatre.ca

One meaning of "Gwaandak" in the Gwich'in language is "storyteller." Gwaandak Theatre develops, produces and tours plays for youth and adults to empower Indigenous and Northern voices. Programming also includes readings and training.



Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

WHITEHORSE

1171 Front Street
T: (867) 456-5322
info@kdcc.ca
www.kdcc.ca

The Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre is a gathering place for all! Come explore our exhibits, experience amazing festivals, meet Artists in Residence and take a tour of our Centre from a local guide.



MacBride Museum

WHITEHORSE

1124 Front Street
T: (867) 667-2709
frontdesk@macbridemuseum.com
www.macbridemuseum.com

From ancient stories to modern history, MacBride Museum offers a comprehensive view of the people and events that shaped the Yukon. Discover our significant First Nations collection, special programs and gold panning. Open year-round!



Explore Yukon's spirited history

oldlogchurchmuseum.com



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ARTS AND CULTURE

Northern Cultural Expressions Society

WHITEHORSE

137A Industrial Road
T: (867) 633-4186
assistant@northernculture.org
www.northernculture.org

NCES focuses on building art and business. It's a place where young people gather to connect with their culture through artist expression and experience traditional teachings. Most carvings, silkscreens and paintings in our gallery are created by the students who participate in our program.



Old Log Church Museum

WHITEHORSE

303 Elliott Street (Corner of Third Avenue and Elliott Street)
T: (867) 668-2555
logchurch@klondiker.com
www.oldlogchurchmuseum.ca

Experience Yukon's spirited history within one of the oldest buildings in Whitehorse. Uncover the fascinating stories and hidden treasures of Yukon's early pioneers and missionaries. Tours and interpretive programs offered daily, May to September.



Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre

WHITEHORSE

Km 1423 Alaska Highway
T: (867) 667-8855
beringia@gov.yk.ca
www.beringia.com

Beringia was an ice age land between two continents on the edge of North America. It was home to the mammoth and the first people of North America. Take a voyage into the past and learn about this rich ice age history.



Yukon College

WHITEHORSE

500 College Drive
T: (867) 668-8800
1-800-661-0504
welcomecentre@yukoncollege.yk.ca
www.yukoncollege.yk.ca

Yukon College is grounded in strong partnerships with Yukon First Nations. Our Indigenous-focused programs, offered through our 13 campuses, enable students to contribute to a healthy and prosperous North.



Northern Cultural Expressions Society
CARVING STUDIO & GALLERY


Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm
137A Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

Ph: 867-633-4186
www.northernculture.org

Helping youth develop the artistic, cultural, social and business skills required for personal success.

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Connect with Us



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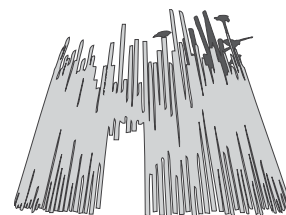
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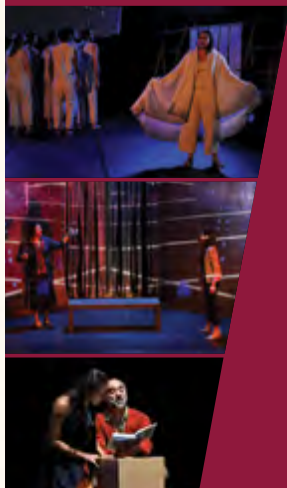
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gwaandaktheatre.ca



ART ADVENTURES ON YUKON TIME

'Arrival of the Dog Team'
by Nyla Klugie-Migwans,
2017 Yukon Permanent
Art Collection

Yukon government photo

Yukon

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KWANLIN DÜN CULTURAL CENTRE

WELCOME TO THE KWANLIN DÜN CULTURAL CENTRE

where we celebrate the culture and traditions of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Come explore our exhibits, experience amazing festivals, meet Artists in Residence, and take a tour of our inspirational Centre with a local guide.



1171 Front Street • Whitehorse Yukon • www.kdcc.ca • 867-456-5322



OUT ON THE LAND



Long Ago Peoples Place

NEAR HAINES JUNCTION

Champagne Access Road (Km 1504)
T: (867) 634-7047
longagopeoplesplace@gmail.com
www.yukonfirstnationculture.com

Long Ago Peoples Place is a re-creation of a traditional First Nations village. Located one hour from Whitehorse, we offer interpretation tours, overnight camping, half-day hikes, and hot tea and bannock.



Shakat Tun Wilderness Camp

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T: (867) 332-2604
shakattunadventures@gmail.com
www.shakattunadventures.com

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T: (867) 668-1984
whisperingtreesadventures@hotmail.com
www.whisperingtreesadventures.com

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SPRING *Dzenù ts'edinndü. Southern Tutchone*
Days are getting longer.

GOPHERS



BEAVERS



SPRUCE TIPS

SUMMER *Aghà gâw wé t'à khuxh wux'âgi. Inland Tlingit*
Time when salmon return.

SALMON



LABRADOR TEA



SOAPBERRY



WINTER *Too diinzhit, ty'aa gwiniik'oo. Gwich'in*
Long nights, intense cold.

WHITEFISH



ARCTIC HARE



CARIBOU



FALL *T'äkho nätekhèl. Hän*
It is getting dark.

GROUSE



MOOSE



CRANBERRIES



**NĀN K'IT
NĀATS'ÈT DIK**

Upper Tanana

We Follow the Seasons

Our Elders say that the land and water surrounding us is our “pantry.” No matter the place or season there is healthy nourishment. These plants and animals are our food and our medicine. They have sustained us for thousands of years and continue to do so today. The seasonal cycle guides us to places where we can harvest the resources we need. Following this cycle is our way of life.



YUKON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES



LET'S MAKE YOUR TRIP MEMORABLE

Beaver Creek
Alaska Highway
(867) 862-7321

Carcross
Carcross Commons
Commercial Village
(867) 821-4431

Dawson City
Front Street (at King Street)
(867) 993-5566

Haines Junction
Da Kų Cultural Centre
on Alaska Highway
(867) 634-2345

Watson Lake
Junction of Alaska and
Robert Campbell highways
(867) 536-7469

Whitehorse
100 Hanson Street
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This Welcome Guide was produced by YFNCT in partnership with all 14 Yukon First Nations. We are thankful for our Elders' knowledge and guidance in developing this publication. Special thanks/*Máhsí/Günalchish* to Alexis Hougen for her dedication as project and community liaison, Linda Johnson for her leadership in research and content and Aasman Brand Communications for design development and production.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT **YFNCT.CA**

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