

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

Newsletter



December 2024

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Zhyan Sothan Citizens & Staff,

As we approach the end of 2024, we take a moment to reflect on the journey we have shared. It has been a year of challenges, where we have faced difficult times and uncertainties together. Through it all, we have witnessed the strength, resilience and unity of our community, reminding us that by working together and persevering, we can overcome even the toughest trails.

During this festive season, we encourage each of you to lift your spirits, cherish time with loved ones and find joy in the present moments. Let us honour the warmth of this season and the hope it brings, knowing that brighter days are ahead.

We are grateful for each and every one of you, and we look forward to the year ahead with renewed energy, optimism, and a shared commitment to building a thriving future together. May this Christmas and New Year be filled with peace, joy and blessings for you and your families.

With heartfelt wishes,

Chief & Council



REMINDERS

Citizen Contact Information

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is requesting Citizens aged 18-59 to update their mailing address, phone number, and email address to either adrienne.hill@nndfn.com or Karen.vanbibber@nndfn.com.

Mussi Cho!

Wellness Lunches

Join us for Wellness Lunches in the Wellness Centre **every Wednesday at noon!** Stop by in the morning to meet with Mika for program registration, intake, or just to chat during our open house. Enjoy some tea and connect with the community—everyone is welcome!

Cold Temperatures & Housing

Winter is back! And, so are the cold temperatures

A friendly reminder to citizens to have your home checked if you are away for more than 24 hrs (Housing Policy s. 2.6.12). With these cold temperatures things can change quickly. If you need assistance, please contact the FNNND Housing Department at: 867 – 996 – 2265 ext. 119

The Housing Department Emergency Number is: 867 383 1079.

Snow Removal

FNNND has over 15 km of roads to clear for emergency vehicles, shuttles, and Citizens. After that priority work is complete, we attend to over 144 residential and commercial driveways, if the snow is over 4 – 6" deep. Capital Services is thanking you in advance for your patience on our snowy days, as it generally takes 2 days to complete this large task. Thank you and let's all have a safe and wonderful winter season.

Educational Funding

FNNND's Education Department offers the following funds:

- Youth recreation
- Post secondary education
- Community training
- Work clothes funding
- School supplies funding

For applications, please e-mail: educationmanager@nndfn.com or call the front desk at the Government House.

Youth Centre Hours

The Youth Centre is available for community members ages 8 to 12, from 3:30 to 6:30pm, and for ages 13+, from 6:30-8:30pm.

For registration forms, or more information on how to get involved, please contact Stikia Reid at: youth.coord@nndfn.com

NOVEMBER EVENTS



"VOICES OF THE WIND RIVER" PREMIER

On November 14, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) premiered the film, "Voices of the Wind River" at the Yukon Art Centre in Whitehorse. This film, shot and edited by Bethany Paquette, follows NND youth as they travel through the iconic Peel Watershed and explore the place that so many people fought to protect. The trip was made possible by YFNED, CPAWS and NND.

Thank you to all the NND citizens, from Mayo and Whitehorse who were able to attend the event, it was wonderful to be able to celebrate this moment of uplifting our lands and our youth as a community. CPAWS filmed the event and offered livestream viewing for those in the community. If you missed the event, you can still catch it on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/hOvkhp74NTM>



FNNND AT YUKON GEOSCIENCE FORUM

From November 17-20, Leadership from FNNND attended the Yukon GeoScience Forum. With the largest mining event of the year to have occurred on our Traditional Territory, it was crucial that NND voices be present and heard. Our team spoke on two issues:

Permafrost Terrain Disturbance Mapping and Susceptibility Modelling in the Nacho Nyäk Tagé (Stewart River) Watershed
Frederic Brieger (Carleton University) and Stephen Walke (Lands, NND)

The Future of Mining in Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Traditional Territory
Economic Reconciliation: Perspectives from the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

Chief Hope & Bill Slater, Technical Consultant for FNNND

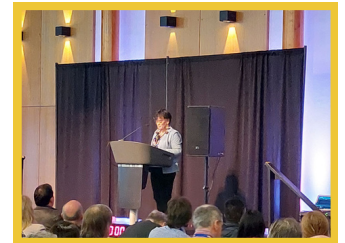
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FNNND AT YUKON GEOSCIENCE FORUM

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"Industry as a whole has been quiet about this failure. As if the failure occurred in some other industry, and it won't affect the future of mining here in Yukon. The agenda and program for this biggest annual mining conference in Yukon has almost no reference to the biggest mining event of the year in Yukon. The only reference is in the Minister of Energy Mines and Resources statement. No sessions about the failure or its consequences or about how the industry is going to move forward from it. As an industry, you can be silent about it, but you can't ignore the elephant in the room. The outcomes of this disaster will be the future of mining in FNNND territory. As an industry, this failure is your failure, not just Victoria Gold's failure."

As the environmental impacts continue from the catastrophic failure at the Eagle Gold Mine site, your Nation is working hard to ensure that this moment is a wake up call for mining, and that a disaster of this calibre never happens again on our lands, or the lands of others.



PROGRAM UPDATES

ELDER DAY PROGRAM UPDATE

The Health & Wellness Department is excited to announce Elder Day Programs beginning in December! Join us every Wednesday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Ihdzi' (202 First Ave) for an afternoon of connection, activities, and wellness. Each session offers a welcoming space for Elders to socialize, participate in cultural activities, enjoy guest presentations, and relax.

Rides will be arranged to make attendance easy for all. For more details or to arrange transportation, please contact Mika, our Wellness Director, at wellnessdir@nndfn.com

We look forward to seeing our Elders come together, share stories, and enjoy these special gatherings!

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

FNNND is offering short-term work opportunities for Na Cho Nyäk Dun Citizens from **November 25 to December 17**. These roles provide valuable experience and a chance to contribute to our community. Find out more by dropping by the office or giving us a call at 867-996-2265 ext.125, or at wellnessdir@nndfn.com

UPDATE ON EAGLE GOLD MINE CRISIS

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk is committed to providing Citizens and members of the public consistent and frequent updates on the ongoing Eagle Gold Mine Crisis.

Site Report | November 20, 2024

- Work has been completed on constructing the safety berm. This will ensure the safety of workers on site as this important work continues. Despite this important milestone, there is currently an unacceptable level of risk at the camp. It is recommended that NND Citizens do not sleep at the camp, and be prepared to evacuate at any time.
- Available storage for solution from the Heap Leach remains a critical concern. While much progress has been made on this item, the effects from changing seasons are demanding more storage solutions.
- Water treatment has begun on site. This is an important milestone to be able to treat the cyanide solution, and mitigate further risk of the solution coming into contact with the environment. However, water treatment levels are low and FNNND is working hard to support increasing this capacity.
- Levels of cyanide and other contaminants (most notably, mercury) in groundwater seeps and wells in the lower Dublin Gulch and Eagle Creek valleys were determined to be high and increasing.
- A new sump has been constructed aimed at intercepting groundwater before it reaches Haggart Creek. There is an immediate need to start collecting and treating more of the groundwater before contamination gets worse in Haggart Creek. Monitoring of water in Haggart Creek will need to continue through the winter because, with freeze-up, more of the creek flow will be made up of potentially contaminated groundwater.

Please note that any of the above information may be out of date by the time of publishing. FNNND encourages Citizens to head to: <https://emergency-response.nndfn.com/> for the most up to date information.

YUKON GOVERNMENT 2024 PIONEER UTILITY GRANT

If you're 65 years or older, you may be eligible for the 2024 Pioneer Utility Grant (PUG) from the Yukon Government, with a maximum benefit of \$1,398.32. Mika is available to assist with the application process and can help submit completed forms. For more information on the grant, please visit: <https://yukon.ca/en/pioneer-utility-grant-pug-application-form>

Or contact Mika at: 867-996-2265 ext.125, or at wellnessdir@nndfn.com

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

GRIEF AND LOSS WORKSHOP WITH ANDREW BEAR

Join us for a Grief and Loss Workshop led by First Nations Facilitator, Andrew Bear, on December 3-5 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM in the multipurpose room at the Government House. This workshop provides a compassionate space for healing and reflection. Rides are available, and meals will be provided for all participants.

The Nation will have additional support available during the workshop, including victims' services and counsellors. If you'd like this support arranged ahead of time, please contact Mika at: 867-996-2265 ext.125, or at wellnessdir@nndfn.com



BEAR GREASE SALVE-MAKING WORKSHOP

Join the Health & Wellness Department's Women's Wellness Group for a hands-on Bear Grease Salve-Making Workshop! Bear grease is a Traditional medicine known for its benefits in treating eczema, promoting hair health, and easing arthritis. Mika will be guiding this exciting process.

Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Main Administration building.



FUN STUFF

Riddle Corner

This Traditional medicine is used in childbirth, colds, and flus—
it rhymes with “Larch Park.”
What is it? (Riddle Answer Below)

Language Lesson

Nadzyän Cho – Merry Christmas
T'óhodiht'i Dzyän Húdlín – Merry Christmas
Sóhóthan Nadzyan Etsyawa -Happy New Year

CALENDAR

Dec 3-5

9:30 am-3:30 pm
Andrew Bear: Grief & Loss
Workshop
Mayo NND Multipurpose Room

Dec 7

4:00 pm
Whitehorse Christmas Dinner
KDCC
Whitehorse

Dec 9

3:00 pm- 8:00 pm
Elder Christmas Dinner
Community Hall

Dec 13

9 am - 12 Noon
FNNND Staff Breakfast

Dec 15

Kids Shopping Day
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Mayo Daycare Centre

Dec 18

1 pm - 4:30 pm
NND Open House 2024

Dec 21-Jan 6

Christmas Break
NND Office Closed

Dec 19

1 pm-3 pm
Mayo Curling Club
Wellness Christmas Lunch

January 1

New Years Dinner

Riddle Answer: Birch Bark

Emergency Contacts

Capital, housing and water 383-1079
Septic (Frank) 335-9589
Shuttle Driver (10am - 4pm) 332-1244
RCMP Emergency 911
RCMP Non-Emergency 667-5555
Safety Patrol (Frank) 335-9589
Nursing Station 996-4444
Reach out Support Line 844-533-3030
Kids Help Phone 800-668-6868

Our NND Christmas Callout Schedule will be
coming to your mailbox soon!



Contact us for further inquiries:



First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun
Wellness & Social Programs

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www.nndfn.com

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