

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

Newsletter



April 2025



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Zhyän Sothän Citizens & Staff,

We're so happy to welcome the return of spring alongside all of you!

April is a time of new life and healing. It's the best time of year to collect medicines from the trees, the grayling will soon be headed to the freshwater, and is the time when the animals are giving birth to their young.

Spring is the time to feel life on the land returning to its vibrancy. It's a time to celebrate having made it through the winter and welcome the new life and new beginnings that come along with the season. Traditionally, this has been a time when we didn't hunt in order to support the new young get their best start in life.

What new beginnings will you celebrate this spring? What vibrancy of life are you celebrating and feeling alongside the return of the sun? And lastly how are you supporting those around you with new life and new chapters?

Mussi Cho,

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Chief & Council



Ethel Lake Spring Culture Camp

Citizen Survey - We need to hear from NND Residents living on the traditional territory

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is asking NND Citizens who are residents on the Traditional Territory to complete and return the **Citizens Survey**.

We've received a lot of surveys so far, BUT most responses have come from citizens living outside of Mayo. We want to hear from those living on the Traditional Territory. This is a vital way for NND to gather information on the wants and needs of the community, and ensure that our services and programming is aligned with NND self-determination informed by Citizens' voices. It is **VERY IMPORTANT TO COMPLETE THE CITIZEN SURVEY AND SUBMIT TO THE NND OFFICE**.

Each household has received a paper copy by mail. If you need an extra copy, please pick one up at the NND Government House.

EACH UNIQUE SUBMISSION WILL RECEIVE A \$30 GIFT CARD.

Mussi Cho for your cooperation and participating in your self-governance.

Message About Water Bleeders and Support from the Housing Department

Hi, all Citizens and neighbours,

The Housing Department would like to remind everyone that despite the return of the sun, the winter is still here for a little while longer! If you leave for more than 24 hours, please continue to:

- Keep your water bleeders on.
- Have someone check your heat in your residences.

We still are at risk from freeze ups! To avoid any unnecessary damage please continue to perform these important tasks. If you need help the Housing Department will be happy to assist you. Please feel free to contact us at (867) 996-2265 ext 119.

Thank you and stay safe!

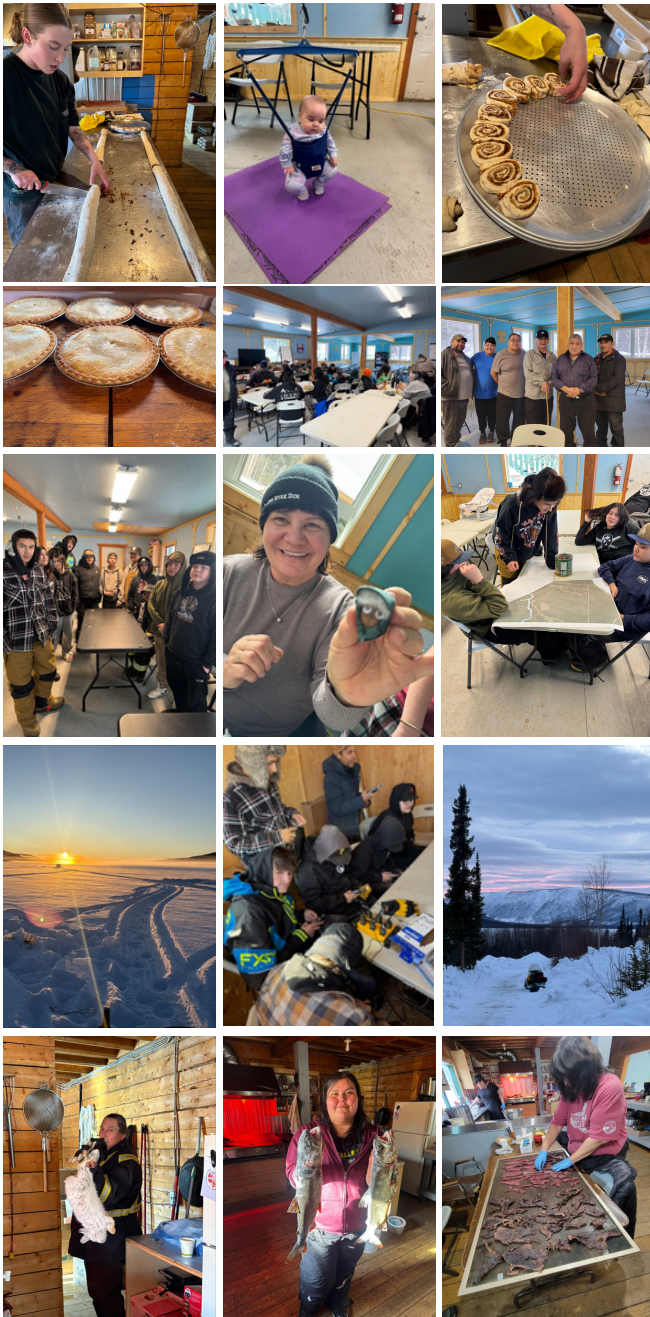


STORIES AND UPDATES

MARCH BREAK HERITAGE AND CULTURE CAMP

This past March break that happened from March 12-18, 2025 the Department of Heritage & Culture hosted a youth culture camp at Ethel lake. Youth were invited to come together, play games, connect with Elders, learn traditional skills, and most importantly - have fun!

We're so proud of our community's young people. NND is full of youth that are so smart, funny, kind, and step up to make our shared community a better place. Mussi Cho for everyone who helped run the camp, we couldn't have done it without you!



FIREWEED SUPERBLOOM: YOUTH ARTWORK

After the devastating fires of 2023, last summer saw a SUPERBLOOM of fireweed at Ethel lake. Lead by CPAWS, this project is a combination of art and storytelling to share how forest fires continue to impact communities now more than ever.



Councilor Helaina Moses at Youth Treaty Negotiation & Implementation Simulations

This March, Councilor Helaina Moses participated in a Youth Treaty Negotiation & Implementation Simulation event hosted by The Gordon Foundation. This event is designed for Indigenous youth to step into the role of negotiators for their Nations. The event is an opportunity to connect to current and future leaders across Turtle Island, and prepare participants to take on negotiations for their people in the future. Helaina will be sharing her full report at the April 26th General Assembly.



DĀN LAACHEWDĀW KÚN: GATHERING HOUSE

As we work together to build Dān Laachewdāw Kún, the story of the "Beaver teaches man how to build a house" reminds us how important it is to share ideas and skills for future generations. The knowledge of animals has been passed through time, showing us the way to survive. Just as the beaver learned how to build a home using the right materials and careful planning, we too must use the knowledge of our ancestors and community members to create a space that is meaningful. Beaver to make a home had been honed over time, trial and error to find the shape, size, and the right materials to build it. A forward vision for a space that is usable, functional and accessible. By using the knowledge of our ancestors and each and every community member we can plan wisely, and Dān Laachewdāw Kún will be a place that truly works for us.

As the planning moves forward, we invite you to join us in this journey of building a Gathering House that will serve the community. We are looking for new members for our Community Advisory Committee, including youth and Elder representation. If you are interested please email Nicole at DLK@regeneratedesign.com!

Community Planning events were held in both Mayo and Whitehorse from February 4 to February 7, 2025. We heard from community members stories of what you love about your community and your vision for the future. We are now working on developing out that vision in more detail and are looking for members for a Community Planning Advisory Committee to be involved as we move forward.

Would you like to shape the future of your community and work with us to make this project happen? Join the Community Planning Advisory Committee! Contact: nnd@regeneratedesign.com or text: 604-346-8820

Staff Shout Out - Avneet and Jimmy

Avneet and Jimmy have both been serving as Early Childhood Educators for the past year, playing a vital role in shaping the developmental journey of the children in their care. Early childhood development is crucial as it lays the foundation for lifelong learning, behavior, and well-being. Educators in this field are not only caregivers but also facilitators of growth, providing a safe and nurturing environment where children can develop cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills. Through their dedication and learning early childhood development theories, Avneet and Jimmy have established meaningful connections with the children, fostering trust and creating a positive learning atmosphere.

In addition to their roles in early childhood education, they have also shared their passion for cooking by leading a cooking class for high school youth. Their recent success in hosting two tasty pop-up events further demonstrates their commitment to engaging with the community and promoting valuable skills among young people.

Thank you for all you do!



Programs & Services

Wellbriety Program Coming Soon

The Health & Wellness Department is excited to introduce Wellbriety to our community. Wellbriety is an Indigenous movement with a mission to, "Disseminate culturally based principles, values, and teachings to support healthy community development and servant leadership, and to support healing from alcohol, substance abuse, co-occurring disorders, and intergenerational trauma."

Those interested can sign up with Mika at wellnessdir@nndfn.com. We're excited to share more details soon!

REMINDERS



Elder Fuel Program – Final Deadline

A reminder that April 30 is the last day to submit bills for the Elder Fuel Program. Please ensure all documents are submitted to Susan, our SA Admin, before the deadline. Please reach out to Susan at social.admin@nndfn.com.

Firelight Consultation: Health Scan & Wellness Plan

Firelight Consultation will be coming to our community to conduct a Health Scan and Wellness Plan. Engagement dates will be announced soon. Community participation is essential, as the data gathered will help shape future wellness programs and services.

We encourage everyone to take part in these important events and initiatives. Your involvement makes a difference in building a healthier, stronger community. Stay tuned for more updates.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



Dr. Darien Thira Visit

April 7-11 | 9 am -4 pm | Mayo - NND Multi-purpose Room

Youth Empowerment Workshop: Four Directions Bloodties

April 8-10 | 1-3 pm | Mayo - JVC Clark School for Grades 7-12

Dinner & Dialogue Re: Housing

April 9 | 5-8:30 pm | Mayo - Government House's Multipurpose Room

Hearing from Citizens is an important part of informing the work at the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. This month, we're hosting a Dinner & Dialogue session about Housing.

Sunday Funday

April 13 | 11 am-3 pm | Mayo - 5 Mile Lake Campground

Elders Council Meeting

April 14 | 12-4 pm | Mayo - NND Multi-purpose Room

NND Health Conference, Gathering of the People

April 15-17 | Mayo - Community Hall

This April, NND's Health & Wellness Department will be hosting a Health Conference. Here, we will have the opportunity to hear more about what is happening across the Yukon with health and wellness initiatives. For more information, contact Dennis Peter, 867-996-2265, ext. 114, dennis.peter@nndfn.com

Sobriety Dinner with Special Guest: Notorious Cree

April 17 | 3 - 8:30pm | Mayo - Community Hall

Join us April 17th at the Community Hall to celebrate wellness and sobriety in our community. This event and dinner will uplift and honour those on their sobriety journey, as well as hear from Notorious Cree himself on living in a healthy way and achieving your goals and dreams.

We are currently asking for nominations to recognize individuals for their commitment to sobriety. Nominations can be sent to Jennifer Lucas and Mika Bernier at wellnessdir@nndfn.com

Youth and Elder Meeting

April 25 | 5 - 8 pm | Mayo - Multi-Purpose Room

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun General Meeting

April 26 | 9am - 5pm Mayo - Community Hall

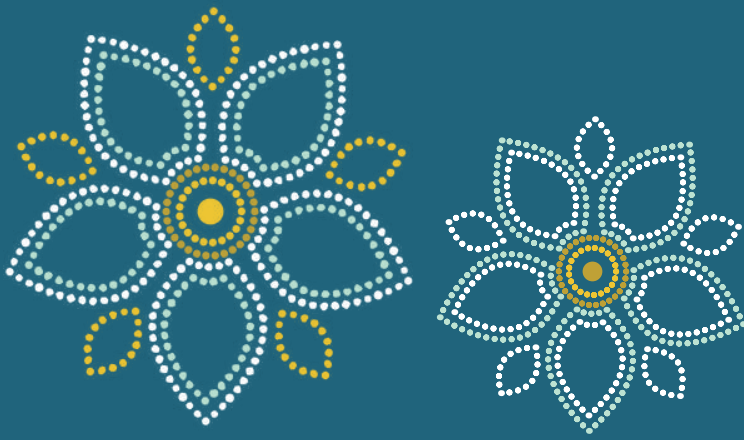
Whitehorse: Yuk'e Room, IRP 105 Titanium Way #316

Digital Zoom link can be found on FNNND's website & Facebook Page

Trauma Recovery with Andrew Bear

April 22-25 | 9-3pm | Mayo - NND Multi-purpose Room

Breakfast and Lunch Provided.



Language Lesson

Do you know the Northern Tutchone words for trees? This month, we're continuing our Northern Tutchone crossword puzzle!

The answers are the translated words. So bring a cup of tea to the language speaker in your life and complete the puzzle together!

Want to do it on your own? Download the NND Language App and find the answers for yourself. Available in the Apple App store and Google Play store.

Trees - April Crossword

Across

1. Leaf
7. Spruce Needle
8. Stump
9. Spruce
10. Bark

Down

2. Balsam
7. Spruce Cone
8. Willow
9. Birch
6. Knot in Tree
7. Poplar
8. Fireweed

Kitchen Corner: Butter Tarts with Ava

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup lightly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup raisins/ pecans/walnuts or chocolate chips
- 12 Large Frozen Sweet Tart Shells

Method:

- 1.) Combine all filling ingredients (minus the tart shells and raisins)
- 2.) Mix well.
- 3.) Sprinkle raisins in a single layer in the bottom of the Frozen Tart Shells
- 4.) Fill 2/3 full with syrup mixture.
- 5.) Bake on bottom shelf of oven at 425 degrees F for 12 to 15 minutes.
- 6.) Cool completely on a wire rack



An Update on the Eagle Gold Mine Crisis

The anticipated increase in water levels brought on by the spring melt continues to be a concern for FNNND. If not enough storage is made available (either through treatment and discharge, or pond construction), the risk is that a major overflow event of contaminated water will occur. FNNND continues to advocate for taking all precautions to prevent this occurrence.

It has been confirmed that in late December a leak began from IROSA Pond 2, resulting in contaminates to spill into Haggart Creek. Cyanide levels still remain at levels likely to cause negative effects on aquatic life within 7 km downstream of the mine. However, contaminant concentrations in Haggart Creek have declined at the northern-most water monitoring station (W22) in recent weeks, and had largely stabilised in the creek within 7 km of the mine.

The water treatment system is now working and is in effect to treat cyanide and most other contaminants. A total of 82,000 m3 of contaminated solution was treated and discharged into Eagle Creek up prior to March 11.

On March 13th the radar system detected movement on the heap leading to an immediate work stoppage on the heap and Dublin Gulch Valley. Data is being reviewed to confirm if there was actual movement, or if results are due to variations in snow melting in different locations.

Planning is ongoing and prioritized for protection of the spring grayling run, as well as spring and summer monitoring of fish and other aquatic life. FNNND is anticipating sharing these plans with the public as soon as they are finalized.

The Eagle Gold Mine crisis is nothing short of a disaster. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun remains steadfast in our call for a formal public inquiry in order to understand the full extent of the technical, regulatory, and systemic failures that have contributed to this environmental crisis. We want to know why this has happened in order to prevent it from ever happening again on our Traditional Lands, or anywhere else.

More information about what is happening on site at Eagle Gold Mine can be found on the FNNND's social media channels and at <https://emergency-response.nndfn.com/>.

Contact us for further inquiries:



**First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun
Wellness & Social Programs**

📍 PO Box 220 Mayo, YT Y0B 1M0

☎ +867-996-2265

🌐 www.nndfn.com

✉ main@nndfn.com