

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

Newsletter



May 2025

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Zhyän Sothän Citizens & Staff,

E nahko ze is our word for the month of May. It translates in English to, "the month when snowshoes start to fall apart." So much of this time of year is for celebrating new things. New seasons, new flowers, new babies, and new light. But we are reminded that we cannot have new in the world, without saying goodbye as well. In the same way that the snowshoes fall apart, we say goodbye to the snow, goodbye to our parkas going back into the closet, and goodbye to the long dark days.

Sometimes goodbyes are easy and we're happy to see things gone. But often, goodbyes are hard and they require us to feel our grief, our sadness, and the love we had while they were here. By acknowledging the ending of all things, we are encouraged to find presence in the moment. To celebrate the new things, to grieve the things we say goodbye to. And to be grateful for what each unique day brings us.

Mussi Cho,

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Chief & Council



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UPDATE ON EAGLE GOLD MINE CRISIS

An Update on the Eagle Gold Mine Crisis written on April 23, 2025

As spring continues well on its way, the team is grateful that colder than usual temperatures mean a delay on spring melt. The lower water levels mean that there is an opportunity for storage and treatment of contaminated water in order to mitigate further contact with the environment. However, a renewed crisis is still possible should temperatures spike, and increased precipitation via rainfall begin.

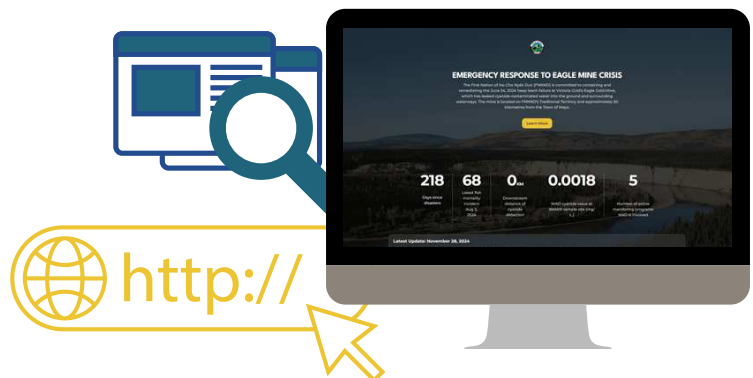
Water treatment is continuing steadily with approximately 2,500-3,000 m3 being treated per day. The team hopes that discharge into Haggart Creek can begin soon in order to alleviate the pressure on storage capacity.

Over the past few days, toxicity tests have come back as passing, meaning no new significant contamination has recently occurred as of the time of writing.

The team is working currently to finalize plans for fish protection alongside the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans. It is anticipated that these plans will be released publicly this May.

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/>.



STORIES AND UPDATES

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES WEEK: MARCH 31 - APRIL 4

Last month, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun celebrated Indigenous Languages Week. We hosted a kids scavenger hunt, that had some of our young Citizens on a hunt across town searching for items on the Northern Tutchone list of words we provided. We were sent so many amazing photos of the next generation of language speakers!

Thank you for all who participated, and we hope you've all taken the opportunity to integrate more Northern Tutchone into your everyday lives!

Don't forget to download the NND Language App, available for free on Google Play and the iOS App Store!



Theo & Avery Language Scavenger Hunt

BIG UPDATE FOR C6 SUBDIVISION!

This week, we installed new security cameras around C6, and they're already up and running! Our community just got a little safer, and we're proud to keep moving forward.

Huge thanks to Jeremy and Yani from Absolute Security for making it happen — your work is appreciated!

Notice to C6 Residents

Please be advised that only the Executive Director and IT Technician have access to the footage of the cameras. While the cameras operate continuously, they are positioned to respect your household privacy—none are directed toward private residences. In the event that any footage requires further investigation, the RCMP may be consulted.

Your privacy and safety are important to us, and we appreciate your understanding.

NND'S TRANSBOUNDARY UPDATE

NND's transboundary team continues to meet with Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories (Main Table Parties MT) on a monthly basis. The goal of the April meeting has been to reach consensus on the various chapters in our Treaty Agreement. We have set a target date to reach a "Negotiators Understanding" by September of this year. From there, CA & GNWT would then initiate early consultation with the First Nation groups in the NWT. Overall, we try to ensure our First Nation partners are kept informed as per the latest updates as per transboundary updates. With this, certain sensitive information remains confidential. Until the MT has reached an agreement, we are

limited as to what info can be shared publicly. With the MT discussions, we are striving for a final draft of the Treaty Agreement for June of 2026. From there, official consultation can officially begin. Ongoing discussions will still continue as small matters may need further clarification along with adjusting settlement land parcels.

As we move forward per the Transboundary Agreement, we may expect the earliest that we can get the agreement finalized and ratified by all three parties is likely the fall of 2027 or early 2028. In this event, NND would have a ratification vote in spring 2027, followed by ratification by GNWT, and then by Canada.

This is just a short update for now and if anyone is interested in further information, please contact Steve Buyck at 867-336-1492 or at transboundary@nndfn.com.

Northern Tutchone Children's Books

The Department of Heritage and Culture are excited to announce a Northern Tutchone children's book series! This five books have been created to support bringing more Northern Tutchone into the lives of our youngest Citizens, and to support all Citizens with their language journey. We respect and acknowledge our ancestors who spoke and carried our language, preserving our unique identity and history. We thank our Elders for supporting us on this journey of revitalizing our language. With special thanks to those who have helped us in this endeavour including Nicole Cerpnjak, Tori Hight, and Frances Sobolak.

For the full digital books, and accompanied audio books to follow along, please visit: nndfn.com/heritage



Melody, Irene, and Teresa from the heritage department. Nicole is helping to develop the Northern Tutchone books and Tori is our Illustrator!

New Cabin Built at Frozen Camp Thanks to Incredible Team Effort

On March 2nd, the dedicated crew coordinated and packed an impressive 12,000 lbs of supplies in preparation for the much-anticipated haul out to Frozen Camp. The following day, the team set out via snow machines on the long and demanding journey, taking a full 13 hours to reach the remote site.

Upon arrival, the crew was faced with the first major task: digging out the foundation for the cabin from 24x34 feet of hard-packed, drifted snow. Despite the challenging conditions, spirits were high and determination never wavered.

Construction of the new cabin began immediately and was completed on April 3rd. The final product is a cozy and functional little cabin nestled at the halfway mark to Nash Creek, equipped with custom-built furniture tailored for the space and location.

Once finished, the crew made their way back to Mayo, proud of their incredible accomplishment.

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to the entire team for their hard work, dedication, and resilience. This new cabin stands not only as a rest stop and shelter for future travellers—but as a testament to what can be achieved with strong teamwork and community spirit.

-Teresa Samson, Heritage and Culture Manager



Mayo's Gathering of the People Health Conference

Last month, the NND Wellness Department hosted a three day health conference here in Mayo. The focus was on health and wellness strategies, with emphasis on lessons that are connected to Traditional Knowledge and practices. Attendees also heard updates from local organizations about the activities and ongoing programming, including Blood Ties Four Directions, CYFN Family Preservation Centre, CYFN Health Department, Yukon Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (YSPOR) and Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon (RPAY).

Mussi Cho to everyone who came out to participate, learn, and share their knowledge. Mussi Cho to everyone who played a role in helping to facilitate this important gathering.



Surprise Staff BBQ!

This month, the NND Catering Manager, Ava Carins-Locke, and her team hosting a surprise staff BBQ! This welcome event invited the NND team to take a moment away from their screens to enjoy something to eat in the early spring weather. We're grateful for the brief moment to connect with a tasty meal! Mussi Cho, Ava and Team!

Welcome to the Team, Ashley Churches!

NND Education Department would like to congratulate Ashley Churches. She has filled the role of Daycare Supervisor. We wish her well and good luck in ensuring the continuity of early learning within the centre!

Programs & Services

Daycare Guest Speaker & Community Tour Programs

NND Daycare has started a weekly guest speaker program, inviting leaders from our community who make an everyday impact on wellbeing. This program aims to help children to build relationships with community members and develop an understanding of how everyday people can make a difference. The hope is that by getting to know people like nurses and healthcare staff, it can make visits to the health centre better as well.

The second program Daycare is hosting is tours with the children around town! This month children had a visit at the Early Years Program and at Ihdzi' for brunch with the educators. During spring break, children of all ages were able to go for kick sled ride and had a sliding party where everyone could enjoy the early spring and connect with families.

These events are a great addition to existing Daycare programming including the existing Monday music classes with Esther Winter.

For more information on Daycare programs and how to get involved, reach out to Avneet Chahal, the Daycare Coordinator at daycare@nndfn.com.

REMINDERS

Funding Reminder

The NND Department of Education would like to remind Citizens that the following funding deadlines are fast approaching:

- Youth Recreation
- Community Training
- Post Secondary Funding
- Work Clothes Subsidy

Please contact Denise Simmons for applications, policies or more information at: pse.aset@nndfn.com or at: 867-996-2265 ext. 116.

Dän Laachewdäw Kún Gathering House Committee Members Needed

As we move closer to construction, we invite you to join us in this journey of building a Gathering House that will serve the community. We are still 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!



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Northern Tutchone Language Learning

Starting April 29 | 9 am - 4 pm | Mayo - NND Multi-purpose Room

Join us at the Multi-Purpose Room 12 pm - 1 pm every Tuesday and Thursday in May (except for the week of 19th-23rd and May 15th) for Northern Tutchone language lessons and learning. All are welcome!

May Gathering

May 21-23 | Minto Landing Reach out to Halona Johnny at main@nndfn.com or at 867 996-2265 ext. 200 for more information.

Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference

May 5-7 | Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Whitehorse

Home Support Worker Training: Supporting Aging Family Members

May 6-8 | All day | Mayo - Ihdzi

FNNND General Meeting

May 10 | 10am- 5pm | Mayo Community Hall

Whitehorse: IRP, Khatàn Room, 302-105 Titanium Way and Online Zoom

Youth Council Meeting

May 12 | 4:30-6:00 pm | Mayo - NND Multi-purpose Room and Online Zoom

Ihdzi Coffee Club

Starting May 12 | Mayo - Ihdzi

Starting on May 12th, Ihdzi' will offer coffee, tea, and lattes for sale! We are excited to have a new espresso machine to expand our offerings. Ihdzi' hours will be changing for the spring/summer season and opening up earlier, so stay tuned for an official announcement. Visit: www.ihdzi.ca for more information.

Coffee & Conversation

May 14 | 6-8:30 pm | Mayo - NND Multi-purpose Room and Online Zoom

Stay informed about what's happening with your First Nation and have a chance to ask questions and provide important feedback to governance.

Mayo Career Fair

May 15 | 10 am - 4:30 pm | Mayo - JV Clark School

Art Exhibit: My Big Bougie Beaded Earrings

March 14 - May 20 | Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Whitehorse

A vibrant celebration of Indigenous artistry and self-expression, showcasing bold statement earrings as symbols of identity, creativity, and presence.

Wellness Camp

May 17-25 | Ethel Lake Outpost

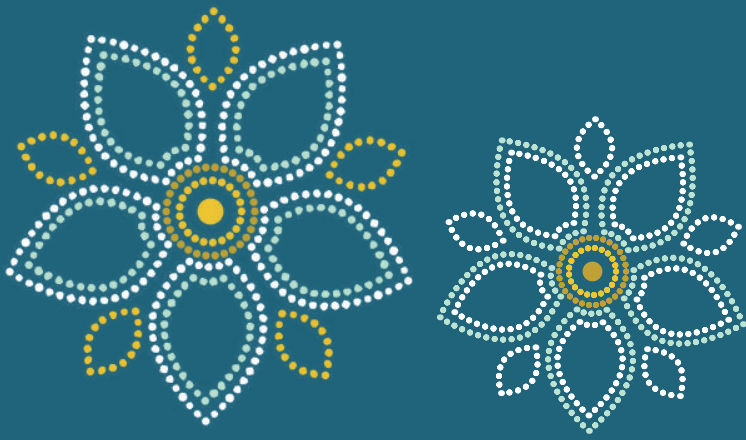
Reach out to Denise Simmons at pse.aset@nndfn.com for more information.

Dän Laachewdäw Kún Gathering House

May 26 in Whitehorse

May 27 and Thursday 28 in Mayo (Multipurpose Room)

The engagement makes sure we include voices that aren't often heard—people who don't always have a seat at the table. Dän Laachewdäw Kún should be a place that people feel belongs to them, where they feel at home. A space where the community feels proud, comfortable, and connected. We believe that everyone has a role to play in keeping our culture and history alive. We encourage you to take part, to make sure that the knowledge and values of our ancestors continue in a good way. Together, we are honouring our past and shaping our future. We will be gathering together next around the progress of this new building at the end of May! Please save the date for our May community engagement to see the progress on design and share your input as we move closer to construction! For more information, please reach out to Nicole Jarhus at nicole@regeneratedesign.com.



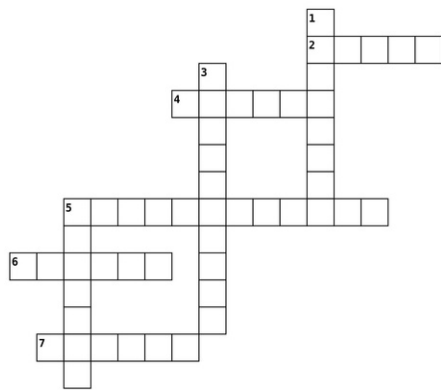
Language Lesson

It's that time of year again and the bears are awake! To celebrate this change of seasons, this month's crossword is all about bears!

The answers are the translated Northern Tutchone 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.

Northern Tutchone Crossword Puzzle - All About Bears



Across

Down

- 2. It's Den
- 4. Bear Cub
- 5. Black Bear
- 6. Male Bear
- 7. Female Bear (Sow)

- 1. Animal Fur
- 3. Brown Bear
- 5. Grizzly Bear

Kitchen Corner: Monthly Healthy Recipe from Ava

FOCACCIA BREAD Serves 5-10

Ingredients:

PART 1:

- 1 1/3 cup warm water
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 (0.25 ounce) package active-dry yeast

PART 2:

- 3 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons flaky sea salt

Method:

Start by mixing together Part 1, and let sit for 5 minutes or until the liquid is frothy and bubbly. Add Part 2 and knead dough together, if using by hand, knead for 10 minutes, if using a mixer - knead for 5 minutes on medium.

Drizzle the kneaded dough with some olive oil, cover, and set in a warm area for 1 hour or until doubles in size. Transfer onto an oiled pan and flatten with your fingers, making little dimples in the dough. Drizzle with some more oil, and flaky salt, (rosemary is optional). Bake at 400°C for 35-45 minutes or until golden brown.

Staff Shout Out: Brandi McGinty

Brandi has been a dedicated and valued member of our daycare team for the past three years. During this time, she has consistently demonstrated a deep passion for early childhood care and education. Her natural ability to connect with children stands out. She creates a warm, nurturing environment that helps each child feel safe, understood, and supported.

Brandi's kindness, patience, and gentle approach are qualities that not only enhance the children's daily experience but also contribute positively to the overall team dynamic. She is someone both children and colleagues trust and enjoy working with, and her calm, supportive presence brings a sense of steadiness and care to the centre.

In addition to her hands-on experience, Brandi is actively pursuing professional development through Early Childhood Development courses. Her commitment to learning is evident, and we've seen her make intentional efforts to apply new concepts and best practices in her daily interactions with children.

Her dedication to both the children and her professional journey exemplifies the kind of educator who makes a lasting difference. We are fortunate to have her as part of our team.

-Terra Blanchard, Education Manager



Employment Opportunities

The current positions with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Government are open, and currently accepting applications:

- Wellness and Social Programs Director
- Annual General Assembly Coordinator
- HR Technician
- Payroll Clerk
- Garden Labourer(s) (Term: May - Sept)
- Community Safety Guardian
- Community Safety Coordinator

Contact us for further inquiries:



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