

CITIZEN ANNOUNCEMENT

Northern Tutchone Council Meeting

UPDATE

**BY: FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYÄK DUN
CHIEF & COUNCIL**

On March 24-25, 2025, leaders from the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND), Selkirk First Nation (SFN), and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN), gathered for the Northern Tutchone Council (NTC). Continuing a decades-long legacy of collaboration, this Council serves to support continued partnership on shared priorities, community issues, and political coordination. NTC leaders recently came together to discuss shared priorities, and identified five strategic areas for collaboration, in addition to regular political coordination. Target goals in each of these areas, along with specific objectives, are provided in the body of this plan:

- A. Wellness and Addictions**
- B. Language**
- C. Protection of Land, Water and Air**
- D. Restoration of Salmon**
- E. Justice and Community Safety**

NORTHERN TUTCHONE COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

The Northern Tutchone Council discussed the ongoing work of a shared strategic plan. While still in the drafting phase, this plan seeks to ensure overall alignment on shared goals between Nations, create better relationships between First Nation governments, with particular priority on wellness and recovery work, and alignment on key political coordination and advocacy efforts. All three Nations look forward to sharing the strategic plan with respective Citizens once finalized.



Northern Tutchone Council Meeting

CREATING CONSISTENCY & COLLABORATION

An important topic of discussion during the meeting was creating more efficiencies and consistencies across Northern Tutchone Nations for policies regarding community honoraria, office closures in recognition of Citizens passing, and collaboration on shared events. Ensuring consistency across Nations is important to upholding principles of equity and equality across compensation policy, and how to honour community members in a consistent, culturally relevant way. In addition, a need for a strategic approach to some programs and services was identified to prevent duplication of services where relevant. As well as working on collaborations on Language revitalization and strengthening relationships to water, land and the wildlife.

While discussions continue on collaboration and consistency, the NTC remains committed to upholding principles of self-determination and the various approaches that each Nation is embarking on in these policy areas. Ultimately, any policy decision will require direction through each Nation's respective decision making process.

JUSTICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY

Each Nation shared an update on individual efforts pertaining to justice and community safety matters.

FNNND shared updates about a residential community surveillance program, in which more information will be made available to Citizens soon.

SFN shared that they have completed their Community Safety Plan and have implemented a majority of the plan. SFN is now considering an evaluation of the Community Safety Officer program and updating the Community Safety Plan if necessary.

LSCFN are still in development of their Community Wellness Plan in order to meet the standards of the Government of Canada's public safety funds. They are seeking additional funding opportunities for community wellness initiatives from various federal funding pots and Yukon Government.

During this gathering, all three Nations endorsed Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN).

As the NTC moves forward in this collaborative work, further opportunities will be explored to incorporate Traditional Northern Tutchone Law and Knowledge, such as the NT Code of Conduct – Dän Chì Lets'olido. There is expressed interest in maintaining communication between Nations in regards to vulnerable NT Citizens, and possibly introducing more signage sharing declarations against illegal substances before entering communities. Lastly, there is a strong desire for more collaboration on Community Safety Officers.

SALMON RESTORATION

The NTC discussed the April 1, 2024 - 7 year agreement between Canada and Alaska with the goal of protecting Yukon River Chinook salmon, suspending all commercial, recreational, and domestic fisheries. It was emphasized that this agreement does not impact treaty rights, and that it is up to each First Nation to manage their community's fishing. LSCFN will be starting community information sessions in order to create awareness surrounding the severity of the situation.

A priority for NTC is pursuing further agreements with Alaska, Yukon, and Canada. More information will be shared once available.

“

*NTC remains committed to upholding principles of **self-determination** and the various approaches that each **Nation** is embarking on in these policy areas.*

”

