

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

Newsletter



July 2025

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Zhyän Sothän Citizens & Staff,

Welcome to July, or in our language, Łyok det'aw ze, "King salmon (red fish) month". This is the time of year when we are reminded about our special relationship with the salmon and the water. The salmon sustains us, it is our medicine, and it holds so much knowledge about our world. Traditionally, this is the month where we begin to set up fishcamp and our nets.

Last year, the Yukon Government and State of Alaska signed a 7 year moratorium on salmon fishing. This agreement is set to be in place until 2030, in order to support salmon population growth and overall wellbeing. While this remains a difficult time to go without this important part of our Na-Cho Nyäk Dun identity and culture, we are reminded that within our Dooli Laws of "Caring, Sharing, Respect, and Teaching", we must still act on our care and respect for the land and for the salmon through honourable harvesting. At times honourable harvest means to not harvest, and continue to give the salmon the time they need to heal.

In the meantime, July continues to be a wonderful chance to get out on the land. We encourage you to stay safe, stay bear aware, stay tuned to road closures and other disruptions that may be the result of wildfire, and remember to stay hydrated during this summer heat.

Lastly, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Chief & Council would like to extend our congratulations to the newly elected Grand Chief, Math'ieya Alatini of Kluane First Nation.

Mussi Cho,

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Chief & Council

Congratulations NND Graduates of 2025!



Chief Hope stands in celebration and pride with NND high school graduates, class of 2025!

UPDATE ON EAGLE GOLD MINE CRISIS

An Update on the Eagle Gold Mine Crisis, written June 30, 2025.

Heap stabilization work has begun, supporting both safety on site from the risk of a secondary slide.

Re-circulation of contaminated water onto the heap for emergency dynamic storage has ended. Horizontal drilling on the heap has begun in order to support the collection of contaminated ground water in this area.

Contaminated water treatment and discharge has steadily increased, reaching a discharge average of 5,000m³ of water per day.

Regular water monitoring continues in the Haggart Creek watershed. The contaminant levels in Haggart Creek have mostly dropped since their spiked levels in April-May. With instances of heavy rainfall, there have been periodic increases in certain heavy metals, such as arsenic, but these have since come down. However, levels of nitrites and cobalt remain above water quality objectives in much of Haggart Creek.

The Fish Protection Plan is now in place with both several barriers installed to prevent fish from coming into contact with the most contaminated parts of Haggart Creek. Fish found at barriers are regularly being caught and transported upstream in order to support access to their summer feeding grounds.

As of June 30, 2025, the barriers have been closed for three weeks and around 200 grayling, slimy sculpins, and round whitefish have been captured and relocated upstream. There have been approximately 9 fish kill incidents reported with the suspected causes of mortality associated with capture and juveniles caught in the barrier structures. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun has requested these be kept for further study. Barrier monitoring has been increased to three times daily in efforts to prevent further fish kill incidents.

On June 25, 2025, the Receiver, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, officially put the Eagle Gold Mine up for sale. Potential buyers will have to demonstrate their experience with operating a heap leach facility, operating within a Northern context, operating in consultation with Indigenous communities, and fill out a questionnaire provided by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

On July 2, 2025, the Independent Review Board published their technical report on findings into the cause of the heap leach failure at Eagle Gold Mine. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun will be sharing our position on the content of the Independent Review Board's report in the coming days.

June 24, 2025 marked the one-year anniversary since the Eagle Gold Mine disaster. During this year, our community has been grieving the harm that has come to the land and water, and working tirelessly to ensure that responsible steps are being taken towards mitigating further harm and accountability in responsible mining practices overall. One year later this crisis remains an emergency situation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun remains committed to fostering justice and lasting change in Yukon's mining culture and practices.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW GRAND CHIEF

On June 25th, the Council of Yukon First Nations elected the new Grand Chief, Math'ieya Alatini. Alatini is the former Chief of Kluane First Nation and is replacing Grand Chief Peter Johnson who had previously been in the role since 2016. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun looks forward to working alongside Grand Chief Math'ieya Alatini in the coming years!

NND GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

This month, NND high school students graduated alongside their classmates at the Yukon First Nations Grad. Chief Hope was in Whitehorse to celebrate and congratulate these young Citizens on their exciting achievement. The community could not be more proud of this accomplishment and wish them all the best with their bright futures!

Congratulations NND Class of 2025:

- Aaliyah Peter
- Sofia Amelunxen
- Kohl Sinnott
- Savana Lucas
- Vivian Blanchard
- Nahree McDiarmid
- Andrew Jacob Diego Sprokkreeff



Congratulations



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Last month, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun celebrated Indigenous People's Day in Mayo. It was a full-filled day of laughs, bubble soccer, and special celebration of our language and culture. Special thanks to the Department of Heritage & Culture for hosting the day, and the NND Events Department for catering a delicious barbeque!



Youth Summit

This month, a delegation of NND youth (Lexis Hummel, Merilee Trudeau, Jazmine Charrette, Titan Simmons, Aaron Lundgaard, Deanna Peter-Profiet, and Youth Councillor, Carolene Lucas) attended the Yukon First Nation Youth Summit 2025 hosted by dāna Näye Ventures in Whitehorse. The attendees gained valuable insights into business trusts, budgeting, and investments. The youth councillor took the opportunity to outline annual youth engagement opportunities and sought input on what youth would like to see in Mayo. It was a great experience, and we hope more NND youth will apply for next year!



WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS



If you see a wildfire, call the Wildfire Hotline at 1-888-798-3473 (FIRE).

It is wildfire season and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is reminding Citizens to be prepared.

- Have an emergency evacuation plan for all members of your family, including your pets. Talk about it together so everyone knows what to do
- Check on Elders in your community to see if they require assistance in preparing their properties.
- Create an emergency kit (more information below)
- Pay attention to evacuation alerts and orders for your area, and be prepared to leave
- Gather valuables including important documents, IDs, and sentimental items so you can be ready to leave quickly
- Do what you can to FireSmart your home (learn more at firesmartcanada.ca)

What to do in the event of an evacuation:

- Monitor local radio, television or social media for information, warnings, alerts or evacuation orders. Stay up to date at wildfires.service.yukon.ca
- Upon an evacuation alert being issued, be ready to leave
- Fuel up any vehicles that will be used to evacuate
- Check on Elders in your community to see if they require assistance in evacuating.
- Pack your vehicle with your emergency kit, and personal valuables
- Close all doors and windows to your house
- Place a ladder to the roof in the front of the house to assist firefighters
- Turn off propane or natural gas, and move propane BBQs and other combustibles, including firewood and lawn furniture away from structures
- Gather your evacuation party and leave

Items to put in your emergency kit:

- Water (2litres per person, per day - don't forget about pets!)
- Food that won't spoil (ie. dried or canned foods)
- Manual can opener
- Cell phone chargers
- Wind-up or battery-powered flashlight (and extra batteries)
- Wind-up or battery-powered radio (and extra batteries)
- First aid kit
- Extra keys for your car and house
- Cash and emergency credit card
- Important family documents such as identification, insurance and bank records

For more information on building an emergency kit, visit: getprepared.gc.ca

REMINDERS

Salmon Moratorium

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun would like to remind Citizens of honourable harvesting practices for Chinook Salmon. In 2024 Yukon & Alaska signed a historic deal on a moratorium on commercial, sport, domestic and personal fishing until 2030. This agreement is in place in order to allow the salmon population to grow and increase the amount of salmon migrating. When out on the land, please keep Dan ki in mind and take action that is best for the health of the land, water, and all who inhabit them.

FNNND Annual General Assembly

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is reminding Citizens of the upcoming Annual General Assembly this summer. The assembly will take place July 10-13, 2025 in Mayo. For questions, please reach out to ed@nndfn.com.

NND Post Secondary Scholarships

Reminder that the intake deadline for the Fall 2025 Post-Secondary Scholarships is July 15, 2025. NND Department of Education offers a number of awards for NND students pursuing studies at the accredited university and college level or for Mayo-based educational initiatives that fall outside of "traditional" educational pursuits.

For more information on how to apply, reach out to Education Manager, Terra Blanchard at educationmanager@nndfn.com or at 867 996-2265 ext 120.

Spring/Summer Vehicle Removal Notice

Spring is here, and with the change in season, we're asking everyone to help take care of our yards and shared spaces. Keeping our community clean and safe is part of NND's housing policy (section 2.6.7), and it reflects our values of respect for land and place.

If you need help removing garbage or cleaning up around your home, please reach out—we're happy to lend a hand.

We also want to take this time to address undriveable vehicles in the community. Too many unused or broken-down vehicles can become safety hazards and harm the land. We're thankful to have funding for a second year to support the removal and recycling of these vehicles at no cost to you.

This is an opportunity to reduce waste and protect our land from pollution. If you have a vehicle that's no longer in use, please connect with the Housing Department so we can arrange for it to be picked up and taken away properly.

Call Out for Committee Members: Wellness Committee

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is currently seeking two (2) new members and one (1) youth representative for the FNNND Wellness Committee. Members will be asked to attend meetings and provide valuable input on promoting wellness. Honourariums will be provided in accordance with FNNND policies.

For more information, or to submit an application form, please reach out to: Elleneise Profelt at exec.assist@nndfn.com

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



Rescheduled: Sobriety Celebration

Join us for this highly anticipated rescheduled event on July 8th 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'll be honouring nominees with a blanket ceremony and community prayer.

Join us for dinner and mocktails provided by Ihdzi', and of course, a Hoop Dance performance by Notorious Cree!

For more information contact Helaina at helaina.moses@nndfn.com

July 8th | 3 - 8:30pm | Mayo - Community Hall



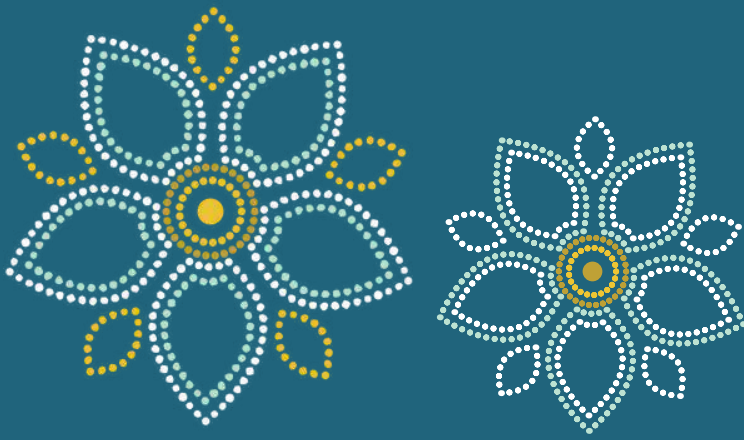
Sobriety
Celebration!
with Notorious Cree

Dinner & Dialogue with Transboundary Team

Join us for dinner, an update on NND Transboundary negotiations, and the opportunity to provide input on this important issue. We will be meeting in person in Mayo at the Government House multipurpose room, in Whitehorse at the Sternwheeler Hotel and online via zoom (find the link on our Facebook page).

July 30 | 6-9pm

For more information, please reach out to Steve Buyck at transboundary@nndfn.com



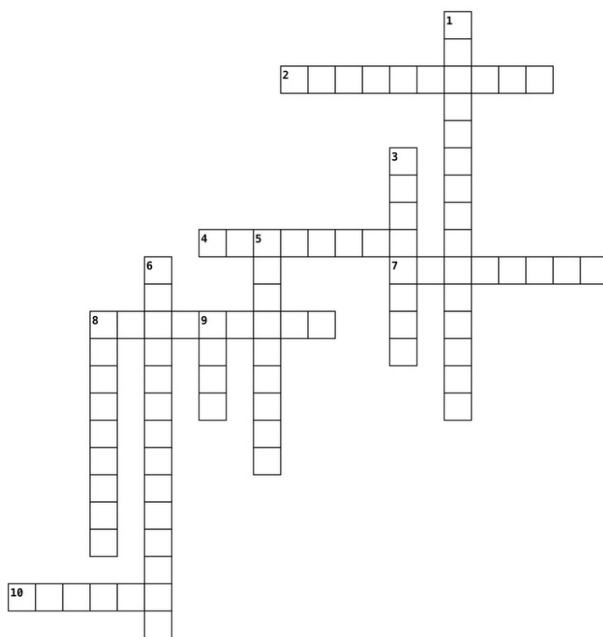
Language Lesson

This month's crossword theme is all about things found in the forest! Do you know these Northern Tutchone translations?

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.

Forest Things



Across

- 2. Bushes (thick)
- 4. Lichen
- 7. Rosehips
- 8. Gum
- 10. Stick

Down

- 1. Branch
- 3. Mushroom
- 5. Moss
- 6. Cone
- 8. Stump
- 9. Thorn

Kitchen Corner: Monthly Healthy Recipe from Ava

Prosciutto wrapped Asparagus Ingredients:

1. Bundle of Fresh Asparagus
2. Package of sliced Prosciutto
3. Olive Oil
4. Cracked Black Pepper
5. Lemon Juice (Optional)

Wash your asparagus and snap the last inch of each piece. Take one slice of prosciutto and carefully wrap each piece of asparagus. Place them on a tray, and top with olive oil, pepper, and lemon juice. Fire up the BBQ and Grill to crispy perfection, OR bake in a 400°C Oven for 20 mins.

Enjoy!



Employment

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is currently seeking to fill the following positions:

- Director, HR & Capacity
- Community Safety Guardian
- Community Safety Coordinator
- Garden Labourer(s)
- Annual General Assembly Coordinator
- HR Technician
- Water Truck Operator Trainee

Visit nndfn.com/employment for more information, or reach out to Ronalda Moses at hr@nndfn.com or at 867 996-2265 ext 121.

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