

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE  
VISIT [KFN.CA](http://kfn.ca) OR CONTACT KFN  
RECEPTION: (867) 841-4274

## Community Events

Dates	Event
December 9th, 2023	Community Christmas Dinner
December 9th, 2023	Judging of Christmas Light Contest
December 11th, 2023	Christmas Bingo
December 14th, 2023	Kluane First Nation Open House
December 15th - January 3rd, 2024	KFN Office Closure
December 20th, 2023	Crib Tournament & Dinner
December 31st, 2023	New Year's Eve Day Activities
January 10th, 2024	Elders council
January 10th, 2024	Youth Council
January 11th, 2024	Chief & Council

All Dates and Events are Subject to Change or Cancellation due to COVID-19



P.O. Box 20, Burwash Landing, Yukon Territory, Y0B 1V0  
Main Ph: (867) 841-4274 Fax: (867) 841-5900

Check out our website for latest updates and follow us on the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

[www.kfn.ca](http://www.kfn.ca)



Kluane First Nation



@kfn government



@Kluane\_First\_Nation

## BURWASH BUZZ

our communities newsletter since 1991



Merry Christmas

Inside this Issue

Department Updates

20th Anniversary

Elders council Update

New Staff

September - December 2023

### Important Messages

#### ATTENTION:

For individuals planning to visit Burwash during the holidays, kindly notify KFN's Public Works Department in advance to your arrival. Failure to do so will result in the expectation to wait until the designated water delivery days. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

**To find the WATER DELIVERY SCHEDULE please look at [kfn.ca](http://kfn.ca) or our facebook page**

#### On-Call Workers

PWMS Emergency Contacts

Owen Miller- 1-(867) 689-1713  
Kevin Belcourt- 1-(867) 689-8556

Housing Emergency contacts

Weldon Danroth- 1 -(867) 536-4588  
Colton Webb- 1-(867) 332-8421

Any citizens who have access to their citizen portal please be sure to check your portal before Kluane First Nations next Annual General Assembly to find a copy of 2023-2024 audit.

If you do not have access to your portal or require a portal link to be sent to you please contact [reception@kfn.ca](mailto:reception@kfn.ca) or feel free to reach out via our hotline 1-(867)-841-4274 ext.101



# 20TH ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 18 2023



Kluane First Nation (KFN) extends our heartfelt gratitude to all those who played a pivotal role in the success of our 20th Anniversary Celebration on October 18, 2023.



Special thanks to Bertha Doris, Kathleen Johnson, Monica Johnson and Robin Bradasch for their exceptional talent in beading and the countless hours dedicated to sewing the medallions. To our skilled cooks and catering team, your dedication in crafting delicious meals for us to savor is deeply appreciated. We are also thankful to Frozen Dreams for creating a stunning cake on such short notice.

The live entertainment, courtesy of Lenita Alatini, Jenny and Dennis Shorty, who provided a captivating conclusion to the celebration with their beautiful performances. Your musical talents were a true highlight. To Alyce Johnson and Michelle Scott, for your efforts in cutting and drying moose meat brought our gift boxes together seamlessly. Your contribution was invaluable.

To Nathan Easterson-Moore, as our MC, you added a delightful touch to the event, bringing laughter and enthusiasm to the crowd. We must also express our gratitude to Tara Kolla - The Wish Factory for the exquisite centrepieces, our skilled photographer, Alistair Maitland who captured the essence of this special event, and to everyone who helped in the post-celebration cleanup.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THIS IMPORTANT EVENT FOR OUR NATION

## Christmas Treats

There's no better time to bake than the holidays

### Christmas Pudding



#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups of awesome
- 1/2 tsp of fun
- 3 tbsp of color
- 1 cup of kindness
- Sugar and spice to taste

#### Directions:

1. Combine ingredients in a large pan.
2. Add seasoning and bring to a boil.
3. Extra Instruction here.
4. Transfer to a serving dish and enjoy!

### Christmas Cookies

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups of awesome
- 1/2 tsp of fun
- 3 tbsp of color
- 1 cup of kindness
- Sugar and spice to taste

#### Directions:

1. Combine ingredients in a large pan.
2. Add seasoning and bring to a boil.
3. Extra Instruction here.
4. Transfer to a serving dish and enjoy!





## Day Care Coordinator

Hello! I'm Shona Sicotte, the new Daycare Coordinator. I'm very excited to be in Burwash Landing! What a beautiful area full of beautiful people. I'm a born and raised Yukoner. I resided the last decade in Mayo, Yukon, owning/operating a motel. I'm grateful for the time I spent on the land of the Nacho Nyak Dun. I since sold the motel, as I was ready to begin a new adventure. My training is in Early Childhood Development, and I have been looking forward to working with children again. I hope to be here long term, and put down some roots. I wanted to say thank you to everyone at KFN for being so welcoming, and for this wonderful opportunity to spearhead the re-opening of the Kluane Daycare Program! The aim is to have the doors open for registration in early January 2024. Stay tuned for updates. My goal as coordinator, is to work closely with families, and to create a fun, safe space full of laughing and learning for the children of the community! Shàw nít'hàn.

## Education Support Coordinator

Dànrích'e, my name is Trish Lind, and I am passionate about Education! Some of you may already know me as Jennifer Asselstine's sister or Sam and Billy's Auntie. If we have not met yet, please pop in and say hello. With 30 plus years of experience in everything from Daycare through to college, I have developed a deep understanding of the education industry. I have been in Alberta for the past 25 years and am so happy to have returned home to Yukon. I look forward to assisting you in all your education needs. Shàwnít'hàn

## Finance Clerk

Hi, my name is Joy Idlout. I work in the finance department as a finance clerk. I have lived in Igloolik, Nunavut my whole life, and I worked as a compensation and benefits officer for 5 years at the Government of Nunavut. My family and I are really enjoying living here in Burwash.

Thank you for welcoming us into your community.

## Director of Public Works and Municipal

My Name is Conor Egan, I am the new I Services at K.F.N My family and I moved here in August from the eastern Arctic and we are really enjoying the beautifully scenery and landscape of the Kluane countryside. I have worked in similar roles in N.W.T and Nunavut previously to joining the team at K.F.N and I am delighted for the opportunity to contribute here at Burwash landing. I would sincerely like to thank the community for the warm welcome we received and look forward to serving the community for years to come.

## ELDERS UPDATE

### Elders Gathering 2023



There were 8 KFN Elders that went to the Elders Gathering in Edmonton that was held from October 29-Nov. 3, 2023. The KFN Elders who attended were Keith, George, Kathleen, Mary Jane, Alyce, Gloria, Joyce, and me. Sheri came as the Caregiver for the event. It gave us time to be out of our busy lives here and be able to see and engage with each other. We are thankful that we had this opportunity to go. The conference was full of daily activities which we participated in.

*They had forums that had different topics and we were able to attend all of them. We split into groups, and we discussed what we liked and what we didn't like from these forums. The forums were Climate Change, Health, Language, Parent and Children and Reconcili-Action. It was a great experience for all of us and everyone enjoyed themselves.*

*Thank you to Wellness Department for contributing to some of the costs. Also, a thank you to Maryanne and Becky for their help.*



### Elders Retreat 2023

KFN Elders Council held an Elders Retreat at the Jaquot Hall on December 1 – 3rd, 2023. We had approximately 15 Elders attend the retreat. The Elders enjoyed massages with Deannalee Mazur & Rebecca Schatz, foot care with Marion Morgan & haircuts with Megan Easter.

We made diamond willow walking sticks with Mike Green. The elders helped sew "Feelie Hearts" for Hospice Yukon, we also made Christmas Wreaths and ornaments.

There were fun activities over the weekend with bingo on Friday, White Elephant bingo on Saturday and a crib tournament. The Elders had a lot of fun and enjoyed the retreat.

I would like to thank chief & council for proving funding and support to hold the elders retreat. As well as the Kfn departments for the donations for door prizes. Huge thank you to Jasmine and Heather for cooking tasty meals throughout the week end. And thank you to Sheri for helping and supporting the Elders and myself, as coordinator Kathleen





# Wellness & Education

## NUTRITION BINGO



Our monthly nutrition Bingos over the past few months have been a success. During our monthly Bingos we make time to gather, laugh, have fun, and of course win some games! We would like to say thank you to everyone that has come out and played Bingo with us this year! We're looking forward to our final bingo of the year which will be filled with lots of cool prizes—just in time for the holidays!.

## WHITEHORSE SEWING NIGHT WITH SHANNON STABIER

From November 6th to the 9th there were sewing nights for anyone to come and sew poppies for Remembrance Day. The event had a good little turn out filled with engaging conversations, hearty laughter, and of course some wonderful food.

Shannon hosts sewing sessions every Thursday evening at the Whitehorse office, everyone is welcome to join, whether they want to start a new project or finish an older one. If material is a concern Shannon is more than



## HALLOWEEN PARTY

On October 31 we had our Halloween party inside the Jacquot hall. We had a haunted house, games, a cake decorating contest, loads of candy, and good food! Thank you everyone for dressing up and participating in our community Halloween Party.



## Reconciliation Walk



From Copper Joe all the way to Burwash Landing, as a community we walked 5.3km together as we remembered the importance of reconciliation and what it means to us all. Thank you everyone for participating, and making a long walk extremely awesome!



# Kluane Visitor Experience 2023

## Visitor Services

- 50,372 total park visitors to date (7% increase from 2022!)
- Increased visitation at Kathleen Lake, backcountry and oTENTik over 2019
- Merchandise selling very well at the Thechàl Dhàl' Visitor Centre
- Community BBQ hosted by PC, YG, and Daku staff
- Happy retirement to Johanne!



## Interpretation

- 4 campfire talks a week
- Free guided hike on Parks Day
- Many programs offered by Kluane First Nation citizens at Thechàl Dhàl' Visitor Centre including: Dañ Zhür necklace making workshop & storytelling
- CAFN hosted campfire talks
- Songs of Kluane with Logan!



## Artist In Residence

- New partnering agreement with Yukon Arts Centre and Kluane Lake Research Station
- Kwanlin Dün First Nation visual artist Teagyn Vallemand
- Christine Koch – Newfoundland based printmaker and painter
- Over 200 people participated in programs!

## Backcountry

- 1,412 people registered for backcountry trips by visitor services team
- 22 groups rafted the Alsek
- Packrafting is growing in popularity – 23 trips this year!
- Increase in Donjek route trips
- About 7% of backcountry trips were guided



## Kathleen Lake

- 5,215 people camped at KL Campground
- 27,470 people visited the day use area
- 95% oTENTik occupancy rate in August
- Campground staff taking care of business!

## Northern Nights

- Over 200 participants
- Collaborated with Yukon Astronomical Society, Yukon Words, Junction Arts and Music and many talented people!
- Amazing YFU team effort!
- Beading, photography, art workshops, live music and more!
- Promotion of night sky protection
- Highlight: Diyet performing at Mät'atäna Män





# KNPR Resource Conservation – 2023 Season Summary

Thanks to everyone who helped make this another successful season!

## Ecological Integrity Monitoring

- 3 kokanee salmon spawning surveys recorded low numbers
- 32 kokanee carcasses sampled, many with undeveloped eggs
- 5 ungulate surveys (3 sheep, 1 goat, 1 moose)
- 5 lake trout surveys on Kathleen Lake
- 6 alpine vegetation plots remeasured at Bullion and Ogilvie sites
- 26 temperature loggers retrieved from alpine sites
- 6 lake loggers retrieved on Kathleen, Mush, Bates Lakes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Kluane Glacier monitoring
- 2 breeding bird surveys on Aurial Trail and Mush Lake Road
- 21 frog surveys at various ponds
- Invasive plant control with multiple partners targeting 12 species at 62 sites
- 3 Alder Creek snow surveys for YG flood forecasting
- Wolf den camera check in Donjek valley
- Continuing to work with CAFN and KFN Land Guardians on multiple projects

## Visitor Safety

- Banff rescue specialist in KNPR for 10 weeks during icefields season
- 3 helicopter evacuations from Donjek Route
- High altitude sling rescue at 4900m on Mount Logan for frostbitten climber
- Training:
  - Helicopter human-external-cargo, rope/crevasse rescue, icefields travel
  - Duty officer, first aid, swift water rescue
- Radio repeater maintenance at 5 sites
- 2 Washburn site visits on Walsh Glacier with KFN citizens

## Fire Management

- 6 resource buildups during extended high fire hazard periods
- Imported fire crew from Prince Albert NP and exported crew to Wood Buffalo NP
- Prescribed burn at farm with YG Fire
- CoRe forest health monitoring for 2 future prescribed burn sites
- Collaborative training with Chilkoot staff

## Human Wildlife Coexistence

- Thechâl Dhâl salt lick/collision avoidance project:
  - Worked with YG to introduce speed reduction zone and double solid line painted on highway
- 20 lamb patrols completed to investigate low recruitment numbers
- Cottonwood Trail area closure and restricted activity order for black bear displaying bold behavior
- Multiple wildlife attractants secured at Kathleen Lake Campground
- Annual firearms certifications/HWC training completed



# Lands, Resources & Heritage

## Staffing Update

We have had some changes in the department since the last newsletter. First, we would like to welcome Geraldine back to her role as Director after taking medical leave for the past few months. Welcome back Geraldine! After many years of service to KFN, Kate Ballegooyen and Adam Hicks have departed for other opportunities. Kristy Kennedy has completed her secondment, although she will continue on a contract basis to provide support for the wind project for the short term. During the fall hunting season, we had Sam White on contract in the capacity of wildlife monitor. Thank you, Sam, for your efforts in providing a presence on the land, and documenting activity in KFN Traditional Territory. We will be working to fill the vacancies in the department in the coming weeks and months. Look for postings of new opportunities with LRH to our website and on social media

## Wildlife Management Plans

YG held community engagement session this fall for updates to the 2010-2015 Management Plan for the Chisana Caribou Herd. The Government of Yukon was tasked with writing updates to the plan for review by the parties. The parties are Kluane First Nation, White River First Nation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States National Park Service, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the Government of Canada and Government of Yukon. KFN has provided written comments that were incorporated into the draft plan that was discussed at the community meetings. YG has noted the comments from the sessions in Burwash, Destruction Bay and Beaver Creek. They also expect to get a recommendation on the current draft of the plan from the YFWMB. Work is progressing on a management plan for Bison. The consultation stage has ended. The management committee will be reviewing the input and looking to next steps for finalizing and approving the plan.

## Special Management Area Plans

Community consultation sessions were held this fall for the management plans for Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park and Pickhandle Lakes Habitat Protection Area. At this stage, they have identified the vision and principles for these areas. After reviewing the feedback from the consultation sessions, the steering committees for each will begin next steps in preparing draft plans.

## Lands Committee Update

Council has appointed three new members to the Lands Committee. After being dormant for some time, we plan to get the new member up to date and begin working through a backlog of lands issues and interests. The new committee members are Monique Martin, Keith Johnson, and Bertha Doris. They will join George Johnson and Dennis Dickson on the committee.

## SMARTICE

SmartICE is returning to Burwash this winter! (February 4th – 8th ) SmartICE was created to address the challenges posed by the changing climate and melting sea ice in the Arctic, which have major effects on the safety of navigation, resource development, and a traditional lifestyle. The program in Burwash aims to improve ice safety and knowledge within the community. Last winter LRH staff tested a device on Kluane Lake which would monitor the thickness of lake ice as it changes over the winter months. This season we are hoping to deploy three of the "SmartBOUY" units during the first week of February which will continue to monitor ice thickness over the winter in frequently used areas. If you are interested in participating or would like more information please contact Jamie at [environment@kfn.ca](mailto:environment@kfn.ca) or by cell phone at 613-340-6152. Please don't hesitate to call!



## Elders Memory Book

After many years of work, we were every excited to complete the Elders memory book. We held the book launch event on October 17 and had the Elders in attendance to receive the first copies of the publication. We offer our thanks to all those who contributed to the writing and production of this valuable work. Complimentary copies are available for Citizens 16 years of age and older, and they can be picked up from the KFN offices in Burwash and Whitehorse. For those living away, copies can be mailed at Citizen's request. For those interested, please reach out to the office in Burwash to request a copy and confirm your mailing address. Please note that you will be required to pay the shipping costs. For the general public, copies can be purchased from Mac's Fireweed Books in Whitehorse, and online from Amazon and Chapters.



# LANGUAGE



On behalf of the Language Steering Committee, I am pleased to say we are on track to launching the Language Department on January 31st. Stay tuned for details! We will be opening the Department in phases based on what we try, what we learn and the sustainable capacity we build.

Our process has been to really understand our Kluane context and learn from other Nations' language journeys, and develop a pathway that revitalizes and preserves our language(s).

We feel confident in the foundation that we are building and grateful to the many citizens who have guided us.

I would also like to thank the Language Steering Committee for their wisdom to ensure we develop a Department that will meet the needs of our citizens both inside and outside of our traditional territory. Committee members include Monique Martin (Chair), Diyet van Lieshout, Joyce Johnson-Albert, and Coleson Ford.

We also presented to Council on November 21st and they are supportive of our process and proposed direction.

Below is a draft overview of where we started, Departmental Priorities, and short-medium term functions and activities. Stay tuned for the January 31st launch details as we welcome language learners and champions!

## Short to medium-term Language Department functions and activities

Empower Learners: Develop a Learner Code of Conduct Be the navigator of learner pathways Develop a learner progire as baseline Organize Events	Develop and activate assets: Create asset repository system Collect assets Develop and animate online infrastructure
Build partnerships: Other organizations (e.g. Yukon Native Language Centre) KFN Departments, external entities sister FN's	Develop a vibrant and supportive culture: Lead by example Celebrate language champions identify 'early adopters' Create marketing strategy

## Our Starting Point

Guidance We are guided by the belief that citizens are at the center and Dan'K'e We know that language revitalization and preservation matter to KFN	Why now: GA Special Resolutions (2020 and 2021) Language Steering Committee Current Council Priority
What citizens want: Connection to each other Learning language through culture Department activities relevant to the Kluane context	What is needed for citizen success: Safe learning environments Kindness Removal of barriers and incentives Healing for those who want it
Our context There is motivation and we have momentum! Less than ¼ of citizens live within the traditional territory Lack of Language Champions Need to focus on a written orthography Currently, not enough hearing / seeing / reading the language	

## Proposed Departmental Priorities

KFN lands as center ●2025 'Language Celebration' event ●Summer immersion camps Improve language exposure	Consistent / consolidated language repertoire ●Adopt EZ and standardized phonetics ●Audio dictionary ●Inventory of existing records Work with daycare and schools
Online infrastructure ●Space with curriculum & safety rules ●Online gatherings & programs Cultural programs	Enhance aspiring language learners supports ●Incentives and supports ●Commitment and responsibilities "Code of Conduct" for safety

## Merry Christmas And Happy New Years

DKRRC Update - 2023

Activities from this past year:

- Successful moose meat jarring workshop held in Burwash, March.
- Held a public draft Bison management plan meeting, in March.
- Participated in Zuna camp. DKRRC paid for the trapper's wages for the duration of camp.
- Contributed (cash) to the Kluane Lake school's winter fish net program.
- Held annual DKRRC "Open House" in May.
- Held regular DKRRC monthly meetings.
- Kept up to date on sheep and moose counts, from YG Biologist (Shawn Taylor) throughout the year.
- Council members attended "Open House" at Kluane Lake Research center, in Sept.
- DKRRC members attended Kluane Research Summit held in Burwash, in May.
- DKRRC continues to support ongoing projects; Kluane Lake monitoring project & Camera trapping project.
- Presented a talk on the camera trapping project - lunch in Burwash in Sept.
- The DKRRC welcomed our new member, Carla Nevin.
- The DKRRC is looking to host some craft (moose hide) workshops over the winter.
- DKRRC is looking for some Bison meat donation. The DKRRC did not receive any wild meat from the local outfitters this year. Are people interested in a Bison meat workshop?
- The DKRRC is holding a photo contest. There will be prizes for each of the 3 categories. Please refer to posters in Destruction Bay (Talbot Hotel & Post office) and Burwash (KFN office & Post office).
- The DKRRC thanks Ron Bouvier and Jonathan Moore for their contribution to this council.
- The DKRRC is looking to fill at least 2 positions on our council. Please see Brenda for an application.
- Office hours: Mon. - Wed. 9:30 to 3:30, Thurs. 9:30 to 1:30. Phone # 842-5820

