



KLUANE FIRST NATION
OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1991

DEC 2024-APR 2025

Burwash Buzz

SAVE THE DATE!

KLUANE FIRST NATION

*Annual
General Assembly*

*Duke Meadow
Burwash Landing Yukon*

August 1-3 2025

NOTICE TO COME

Inside this issue

- Council Update
- Departmental Update
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Chief & Council

Adalhèt kwach'e! Spring has arrived!

Greetings Lhù'ààn Mân Ku Dañ. The sun is back, and the land is waking up again. We are looking forward to Spring in the Traditional Territory and we hope that you will all get a chance to get out on the land for traditional activities, work and play. This past quarter we have been busy working on planning, implementing and most recently, going through the work plans and budgets of the KFN Administration. We're happy to say that the government budget for 2025/26 has been approved at \$12.6M on March 28th.

We've set an ambitious plan for the coming year. Some of the larger goals will be to fill several key positions within the government; implement projects and plans that have been on the books from previous years; and start some new projects and plans that align with our strategic objectives.

Upcoming Projects

This is going to be a busy Spring and Summer in the Traditional Territory. Some of the projects you will see happening around the community and on the land will be:

- School Build (YG project)
- Surveying
- Road access & infrastructure
- New builds & renovations
- Transient homes (tiny homes)
- Camps & expeditions
- Trail Work
- Water house expansion & new truck
- Camp upgrades (Nanaaje, Cultus)
- Digital sign for community
- Jacquot Hall renovations
- Copper Joe dock (YG project)
- Copper Joe School Duplex (Yukon Housing)

Since the last newsletter update, there have been a few highlights to share.

New Assets

In efforts to increase access on the land, KFN has purchased 4 new sleds and skimmers and a trailer to house them. They were used at Zana Camp and allowed us to transport students, community members and guests out on the land. These new assets will be maintained by the Lands department. We are also looking at purchasing 2 UTVs for on the land camps. We would like to be able to transport Elders and other community members to locations that aren't easily accessible.

In advance of the May 1st Tipping Fees at the DBay Transfer Station we will be doing a community scrap metal clean up. We are gathering derelict and broken down cars for removal. If you have a derelict vehicle in your yard that you want hauled away, you can contact the PWMS Director.

DAYCARE

JANUARY

In January, we kicked off the new year with a renewed sense of excitement and commitment to providing a nurturing and enriching environment for the children. We worked to implement fresh activities and programs, ensuring each child's growth and development was at the heart of everything we do. It was a month of reflection and planning as we prepared for the upcoming months, focusing on continued learning and improvement in our daycare center.

February

In February, we were thrilled to participate in the Shawthan Team for an exciting after-school program! These activities brought a range of engaging and fun, helping to keep the children active, creative, and learning outside of regular daycare hours.

These programs included physical activities, and team-building exercises that encouraged the children to work together and critical thinking. We are grateful for Shawthan's leadership and the wonderful experiences they provided to the children.



March

March was another eventful month for us! We participated in a fantastic Zana Ka Nanááje, as well as engaging activities with the Boys and Girls Club. Allowed our children to participate in a variety of recreational, educational, and social activities that promoted teamwork, personal growth, and fun. It was wonderful seeing the kids build new skills, forge new friendships, and learn in such dynamic settings.



DAYCARE

Additionally, we had the unique opportunity to connect with the Yukon University instructor, gaining valuable insights into the importance of the land and its relationship to the children's learning. Our daycare experienced firsthand how the land can be incorporated into educational activities, providing the children with a deeper understanding of the natural world and fostering a sense of respect and appreciation for the environment.



We are also proud to announce that Ashley has completed her Level 1 course! Her commitment to her professional development continues to make a positive impact on the daycare, and we're excited for her to apply her new knowledge and skills in the center.



As we wrap up these first three months of the year, we reflect on the many wonderful experiences we've had together. With each passing month, our children continue to grow, learn, and thrive in ways that inspire us all. We're excited about what the future holds and look forward to continuing to provide a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment for your children. Thank you for your continued trust and support as we work together to make this a memorable year!"



Language



Lhù'ààn Mân Dań Kwanje Nàâtsat (Kluane People Speak Strong)

The Language Department is now in the process of creating on the land programs as requested by the Vision of Council. To make this a successful department, participation from everyone makes the community strong with togetherness. Setting up a positive environment for our young generations to learn from teaches them to respect and care for one another.

Learning from elders and other knowledge keepers about how to live on the land and water empowers and connects youth, contributing to their overall well-being. Our time on this earth is to make sure the youths have a foundation to follow as guidance to keep their language and culture alive or they become lost. As Elders and Knowledge Keepers, it is our responsibility to help our children to grow in a healthy positive way by teaching them respect, kindness and caring.

Here's what has happened in the last three month!

Kathleen brings a wealth of experience and skill in coordinating events, making her an invaluable addition to the team. Thanks to her efforts, 14 on-the-land activities have been successfully implemented for the 2025/2026 fiscal year, following the 4-seasons module. Among these, the sewing nights have been especially popular, drawing many enthusiastic participants who truly love the craft.

This year, Kathleen and I had the pleasure of attending the Zana Ka Camp, where it was heartening to see such strong participation.

The children we spoke to shared how much they enjoyed the experience, and the new snowmobiles were a definite highlight. In addition, KFN has been invited to perform at the "Waking Up Our House" celebration, and we're excited to work with Diyet van Lieshout, who will be teaching us the songs.

The Harvest Camp now falls under the Wellness & Language Departments, and both will collaborate closely to ensure its success.

Upcoming programming for the year

Medicine Picking - May and June

Traditional Trial Hikes

Language Camp - July

Berry & Medicine Picking Day Trips

Fish Net Setting

Sewing Retreat, Regalia Making

Traditional Naming Ceremony Protocols 2026

"The old people must start talking and the young people must start listening." "Losing the language means losing the culture. We need to know who we are because it makes a difference in who our children are." "The most important thing to me is to teach the children, so that our culture never dies."

Author: Unknown



Language

Lhù'ààn Mân Dań Kwanje Nààtsat
(Kluane People Speak Strong)

There was a moose that was hit in January near the Donjeck. Kwänathi Inlį (Chief) Dickson, Jennifer Asselstine, Kathleen Johnson, Marissa Mills, Josh and I went out and helped with the moose. Marissa, Josh, Kathleen and I processed the meat, and this was shared with community members. The meat was also shared with community lunches, Elders Retreat and the Zana Ka Camp.



Cultural Coordinator

I began working in this position on January 6th, 2025, as a term employee filling in for Sheri Atlin until September 2025. While my background has primarily been in Social Work, stepping into the Language Department has been a refreshing and rewarding new experience. Although I am not yet fluent in my language, I am learning as I go and truly enjoying the journey.

One of my main focuses has been developing a yearly calendar of activities. This work has been done in collaboration with the Wellness & Education and the Lands, Resources & Heritage departments to create meaningful on-the-land programming that aligns with KFN Council's Strategic Plan.

December 2025

We hosted a moose stew workshop at Jaquot Hall, where participants came together to jar a total of 86 jars of moose stew. A big thank you to DKRRC for generously donating the moose meat—this workshop brought people together and was a great success.

Sewing Nights

Our sewing nights have been held every other Wednesday from 6:30–9:00 p.m. These gatherings have become a much-loved way for people to connect while working on sewing projects together. Posters with scheduled dates have been shared, and May will mark the last month of sewing nights until they resume in the fall.

Heart Workshop

On February 8th, we held a heart-making workshop where participants had the opportunity to create beautiful handmade items, including earrings, necklaces, and brooches. It was a creative and enjoyable day for all involved.



Sewing Night



Moose Stew workshop



Heart Workshop

LANDS, RESOURCES AND HERITAGE

The LRH Department had a busy winter advancing work on lands, resources and heritage initiatives. Highlights in 2025 include hiring a new Natural Resources Manager (welcome Hannah!), implementing commercial harvesting rights in parts of Kluane National Park, and completing a full season of lake ice monitoring with the Smart Ice system.

We are also nearing completion of testing and commissioning of the Lhu'ààn Mân N'tsi Project (Kluane Lake Wind Project). The turbine has been performing very well under windy spring conditions, and we've recently achieved a milestone of more than a week of "diesel-off" electrical production. Expect to hear more about the project and other KFN energy initiatives in the coming months.



Upcoming LRH Staffing:

- Interpretive Programming Coordinator
- Guardian positions
- Heritage Trails Cutting & Mapping Crews
- Graveyard Beautification & Maintenance Crew
- On-call staff for various lands, heritage and resources programs (year-round)

Upcoming LRH events in Burwash Landing include:

- May 8th: LRH Open House
- June 6th and 7th: Kluane Climate Futures Event

The LRH department regularly provides comments on projects in our Traditional Territory that are being assessed by YESAB. A constant issue is that YESAB never considers the potential cumulative effects of each project, as they have no framework or mechanism to do so. We have partnered with CAFN and secured funding to a multi-year project to develop a framework for assessing cumulative effects of projects in our Traditional Territories from the perspective of our Nations. Look for further information on this project in the coming weeks.

The KFN Settlement Land Use Plan was completed in 2015 and recommends a 10-year review of the Plan. LRH has secured funding to conduct this review and will be publishing a request for proposals soon to begin this work. We will be providing more details on this process as we bring on the additional support to help us get the process started.

In the coming weeks we will begin advertising opportunities for seasonal, on-call, and casual employment within the LRH Department. If you are interested in any of the positions listed below, please reach out to LRH staff and check in regularly on the Hawk App as we begin posting these opportunities.



Did you know?

Read on for information about camping and fishing in Kluane National Park and Reserve for Kluane First Nation citizens



Camping

KFN citizens do not have to pay fees to camp at Māt'ātāna Mān (Kathleen Lake). This applies to both reservable and "first come, first served" campsites.

To reserve a site ahead of time:

- Call or visit the Kluane NPR Visitor Centre (in the Da Ku Cultural Centre) and Parks Canada staff can make a booking for you at no cost. *Phone: 867-634-5134.*
- If you booked online through the Parks Canada Reservation Service at reservation.pc.gc.ca and already provided payment, call or visit the Kluane NPR Visitor Centre for a refund.

To self-register for a "first come, first served" site:

- Please fill out a camping permit available at the campground kiosk and self-identify as a KFN citizen.



Fishing

Most fishing in Kluane NPR occurs outside of KFN Traditional Territory (Thechàl region). Outside of the Thechàl region, including at Kathleen, Mush, Bates, and St. Elias lakes, KFN citizens require a fishing license, but there is no fee.

A few things to remember:

- Outside of the Thechàl region of the park, *National Parks Fishing Regulations* apply to KFN citizens, which includes catch limits and restrictions on the type of tackle and bait, and is restricted to rod and reel fishing only. Fishing licenses are available at the Parks Canada Administration Office at 119 Logan Street or the Kluane NPR Visitor Centre in the summer.
- KFN citizens cannot fish for subsistence outside of KFN Traditional Territory.
- The kokanee salmon population in Kathleen Lake is unique and very fragile. While the numbers are starting to rebound, we ask anglers not to target them, and to release any kokanee caught by accident.

PUBLIC WORKS

As we move into spring, we're excited to share the progress of ongoing housing renovations through the Public Works - Housing program. These efforts are not just about updating homes—they're about improving the quality of life, safety, and sustainability for our community. Safety and accessibility are top priorities. Many of the current projects include upgrades to ensure homes are more secure and accessible for all residents.

This includes reinforcing structures, replacing old plumbing and electrical systems, and adding features. From roof replacements to insulation improvements, these renovations aim to increase the energy efficiency and longevity of our housing stock. These efforts are designed to make homes safer, more comfortable, and more attractive for everyone.

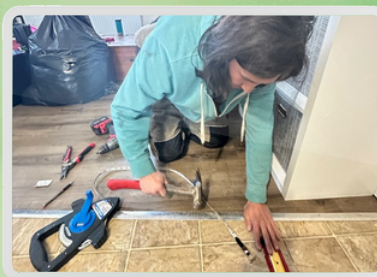
The renovations don't just improve home, they benefit the entire community.

We're excited to continue these important renovations in the coming months, with a focus on creating spaces that everyone can take pride in.



21B OLD ALLEN – RECENTLY RENOVATED

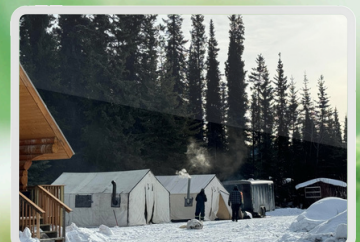
This beautifully updated unit has undergone a complete renovation, featuring brand new drywall, modern flooring throughout, updated doors, and fully remodeled bathroom and kitchen areas. Improvements include new cabinetry, fixtures, and contemporary finishes for a fresh, move-in-ready feel.



MUSKRAT CAMP PREPERATION 2025

Our team worked diligently to prepare Zana Camp, ensuring it was ready to host a variety of activities that reflected the rich traditions, arts, and crafts of our community for Muskrat Camp.

The crew put in a tremendous effort getting everything in place — from setting up the wall tents and making sure the cooks' trailer was fully operational, to providing firewood for the week and handling countless other behind-the-scenes tasks that helped bring the camp to life.



TUTCHONE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Kwandûr 1

Beginner Southern Tutchone Literature

Stories for Beginners
Level 1

Part 1: Stories 1 – 8

Based on original recordings in Southern Tutchone by:

Tûlhesen - Lena Johnson
Gushàka - Grace Margaret Johnson
2025

Textbook compiled by the Tutchone Heritage Society

*Based on a proven method by the Salish School of Spokane. Used by three
Interior Salish languages, Lingit and now Southern Tutchone with gratitude
and optimism.*

The Tutchone Heritage Society officially launched the teaching of Textbook 2 – Kwandûr 1 – Stories this past February, marking an exciting new chapter in our language revitalization efforts. This course spans a total of 30 weeks and is designed to be equivalent to two full semesters of structured language learning. Kwandûr 1 is a highly intensive program that places a strong emphasis on building beginning fluency by teaching through traditional and contemporary stories in the language.

Participants in the program are immersed in the language for more than six hours each week, providing consistent exposure and active engagement in an immersive learning environment. This approach has proven to be both rigorous and rewarding. Although the course has been intense, both students and instructors are reporting steady progress. Week by week, everyone involved is growing more confident and proficient in speaking, understanding, and thinking in the language.

At present, we are proud to have 14 Kluane First Nation (KFN) citizens enrolled and actively participating in the Kwandûr 1 language classes, which are being held in both Burwash Landing and Whitehorse.

These learners range in age and background, but all share a common goal: to strengthen their connection to the Southern Tutchone language and carry it forward for future generations. Their dedication, perseverance, and enthusiasm are playing a vital role in the continued success of this initiative.

We are deeply inspired by their commitment, and we recognize that it is this kind of grassroots involvement that breathes life into our language revitalization work. Their participation not only contributes to their own personal growth, but also reinforces the importance and relevance of Southern Tutchone within the broader KFN community. The efforts of the individuals who have taken Kwanjê 1 and are enrolled in Kwandûr 1 are laying a foundation for a stronger, more linguistically vibrant future, and we are honoured to walk alongside them on this journey.

Looking ahead, the Tutchone Heritage Society will be hosting its Annual General Meeting in the near future. The specific date and location for the AGM will be shared with the community soon. We strongly encourage KFN citizens who have a passion for preserving and promoting our language to consider getting involved by joining the THS Board. As we continue to grow and develop this highly successful language transfer program, community support and leadership are more important than ever.

Together, we are building a stronger future for our language and our culture—one story, one class, and one speaker at a time.

Wellness & Education

Triple P Parenting



The Triple P Parenting Program from the Family Resource Unit in Whitehorse came to Burwash on January 15 2025 to host a family fun night for the community. They brought soup and snacks and crafts for everyone. A great way to become connected with the community before starting to do some workshops and supportive work! Look out for Donna for any parenting support you need!

Game Nights

The community gathered on Jan 25th for a Saturday night friendly game of crib. There were 8 teams total with Kathleen and Jasmine walking away with the winning prize money. Everyone enjoyed some delicious pizza from Kluane Energy and had a fun night out at the hall!



On Jan 28th the community went to the hall to share a delicious meal made by Jasmine Walker and play a big game of Charades. The game was filled with lots of laughter and great acting performances by the community.



Valentines Day Community Lunch

The community gathered for a Valentines lunch to spread some love and eat some good food made by Christabelle Carlick.

The community wrote kind words to share with the community and nominated each other to receive a secret valentine. Everyone was excited to get a gift and know someone in the community was thinking about them on the day of love!



Muskrat Camp

Everyone attended language classes in the morning then got ready to go out on the land! The Kluane Lake School kids practiced their trapping skills and came back to camp with muskrats. They learned from Simon and Luke Johnson new skinning techniques and prepared them for tanning. After long days out on skidoos, the fun didn't stop. Nights were filled with jam making, story telling, handgames, sewing and even contests during community day! The kids learned how to make bat houses, much needed for our camps! Marissa Mills planned an amazing Zana Ka Camp 2025!





KFN is hiring!

Wellness & Education Dept:

- Summer Day Camp Coordinator (Full-Time, June-August)
- Summer Day Camp Worker/Student (Full-Time, June-August)
- Outreach Support Worker (Full-Time)
- Recreation & Health Coordinator (Full-Time)
- Culture & Wellness Support Coordinator (Full-Time)
- Family Support Worker (Whitehorse, 1 year, starting June)

For More information contact:

Robert van Lieshout, Director of Wellness & Education

Email: we.director@kfn.ca

Phone: 867-335-1939



KLUANE LAKE RESEARCH STATION

2025 SPRING SUMMARY

The Kluane Lake Research Station's (KLRS) station manager was honoured to join community events throughout the winter, including KFN's Zana Ka Nanááje, KFN community meals and gatherings, and CAFN's Muskrat Camp. KLRS assisted with education outreach, including science activities at Ända Tà Youth Centre and St. Elias Community School. Trent University stayed at KLRS in early April to assist Yukon Government with their Community Ecological Monitoring Program. Full operations at KLRS are planned to start at the beginning of May. To kick off the 2024 season, KLRS will host a community BBQ on May 10th. Everyone is welcome!



We are looking forward to another busy season at KLRS. Primary and secondary schools from Destruction Bay, Haines Junction, Whitehorse, Calgary, and Mississauga will be visiting the station. Field trips and courses will be held by University of Calgary, Carleton University, Université du Québec and Exeter University. The Howl Experience will return to KLRS with high schools, youth groups, and teacher professional development courses. Two separate artists will be hosted at the station for the Kluane National Park Artist in Residency, in partnership with Park's Canada and Yukon Arts Centre. Yukon Government and Yukon Youth Conservation Corps (Y2C2) will be basing at KLRS for part of their Community Ecological Monitoring Program. The Dän Keyi Renewable Resources Council (DKRRC) will be hosting the Yukon-wide RRC meeting at the station.

Researchers will be visiting KLRS from Yukon University, University of Calgary, Simon Fraser University, University of Ottawa, University of Waterloo, Cardiff University, Queens University, Trent University, Université de Montréal, ÉTS Montréal, McGill University, Ohio State University, and University of Maine. Research topics include glaciology (glacier dynamics and hydro-glaciology), biology (boreal forest ecology), geology (earthquake-induced landslides), geography (subarctic phenology), and agriculture (hydroponics). The hydroponic unit at KLRS will be running this summer; plants will be served at the station and provided to local communities.



NEW STAFF

Hey, I'm Harry, the new Finance Manager at KFN! You might know me as Jade's fiancé or from around town. We moved to Burwash last year, and now that I've got my Canadian PR, I'm excited to get started.

I have a Business and Economics degree from Western Sydney University and experience at Commonwealth Bank (Australia) and TD (Canada). I'm into comedy, nature, and all things sports — especially soccer, F1, NFL, and basketball.

Glad to be on board!



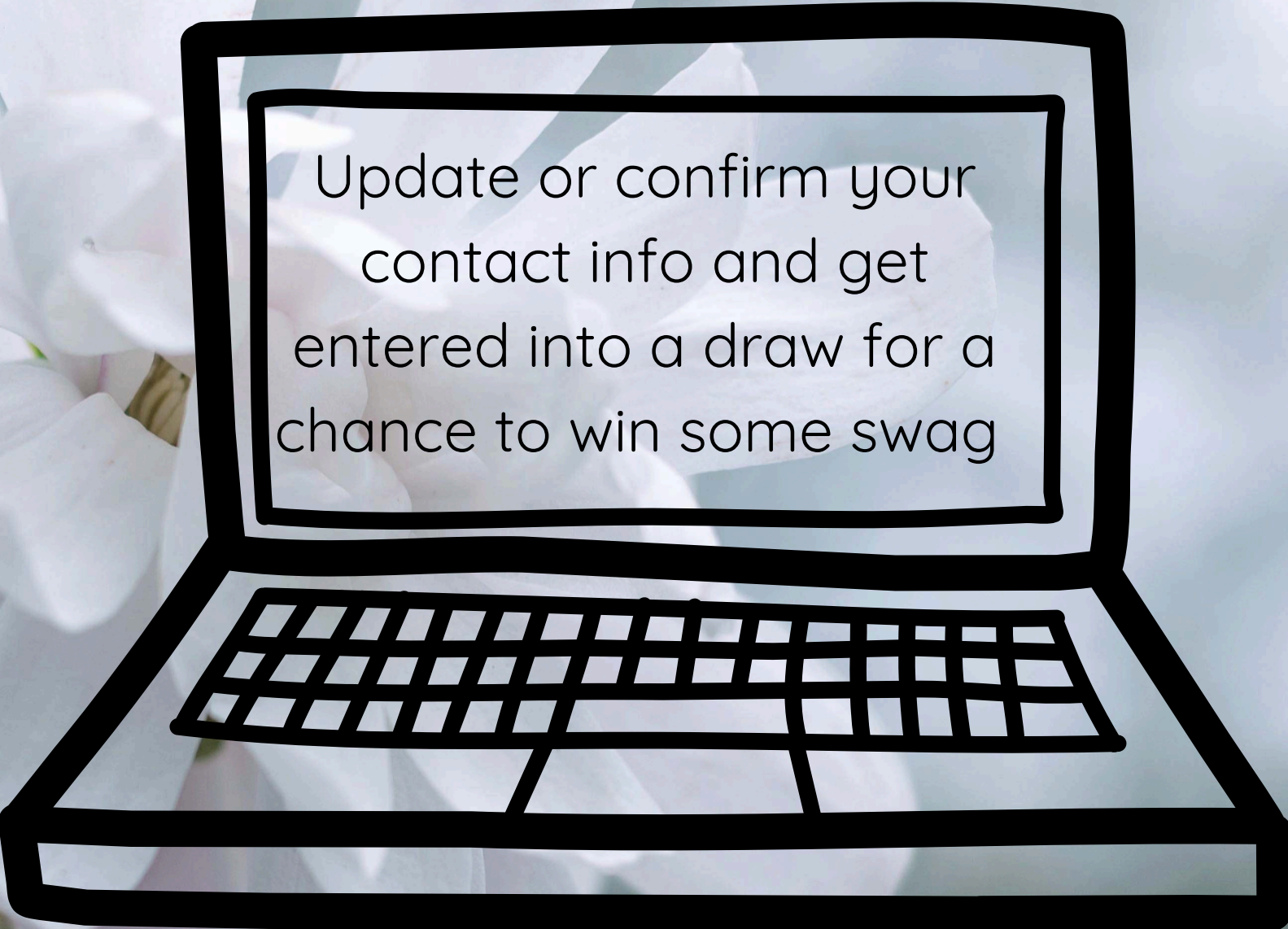
Hi everyone!

My name is Hannah Currie and I am the new Natural Resource Manager for the Lands, Resources, and Heritage department. I have been living and working in Burwash Landing since February. In my role at KFN, I focus on fish and wildlife management, forest health, trapping, and impact assessment. In my spare time I enjoy sewing, hiking, gardening, and playing with my dogs. I look forward to meeting you and I am excited to be a part of the community.

Hi, I'm Trixie Dela Cruz-Tira, the new Admin Coordinator for Public Works. Originally from the Philippines, I'm proud to now call Yukon home—especially here on Southern Tutchone land, where I gained my residency. With a background in entrepreneurship, I'm here to help keep things running smoothly and support our team. Excited to connect and contribute!



STAY CONNECTED



Update or confirm your
contact info and get
entered into a draw for a
chance to win some swag

Toll Free: 1-866-558-5587 x 142

Email: registrar@kfn.ca

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

Community Events

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>
April 16 2025	Elders Council Sewing Night 6:30-8:30 pm
April 17, 2025	Council
April 18, 2025	Good Friday - Office Closed
April 19, 2025	Election - Advance Poll
April 22, 2025	Flex - Office Closed
April 24 - 25, 2025	SA Days
April 30, 2025	Sewing Night 6:30-8:30 pm
May 7, 2025	Women's Camp May 7-11, 2025 Mothers Day Lunch
May 14, 2025 May 15, 2025	Elders Council Council
May 29, 2025	Dakwani - Jacqout Hall
June 11, 2025 June 12, 2025	Elders Council Council
June 13-15, 2025	Daku Nan Ts'eddhyet - Our House is Waking the land - Haines Junction

All Dates and Events are Subject to Change or Cancellation.

P.O. Box 20, Burwash Landing, Yukon Territory, Y0B 1V0
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Check out our website for latest updates and follow us on the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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