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# Tahltan Central Council and Tahltan Band Council election results

The TCC would like to welcome its newly elected Executive Committee and newly elected Tahltan Band Council, as well as those returning to their leadership roles.

The TCC Executive Committee consists of a President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, who, along with the Family Representatives, are responsible for the management of the TCC. The Tahltan Band Council consists of a Chief and five elected Councillors.

Welcome back Adrian Carlick, who is in his third consecutive term. We would also like to welcome newly elected Family Representatives, Gordon Loverin (Carlick) and Colleen Skubovious (Eth'eni). Also new to leadership are Tahltan Band Councillors Bradley Creyke and Shana Day/Dennis.



### Tahltan Central Council Executive

<b>President</b> Chad Norman Day	<b>Vice-President</b> Heather L. Hawkins	<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b> Adrian Carlick
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### Family Representatives

<b>Carlick</b> Gordon Loverin	<b>Cawtoonma</b> Christine Ball	<b>Etzenlee</b> Ken Edzerza	<b>Good-za-ma</b> Carmen McPhee	<b>Eth'eni</b> Colleen Skubovious
<b>Quock</b> Beverly Slater	<b>Shoe-Kawk/ Howd-a-Ghtte</b> Rick McLean	<b>Simgaldtadta</b> Kim Marion	<b>Stikine Claw/Thicke</b> Melva Quock	<b>Thud ga</b> Emma Carlick

### Tahltan Band Council

<b>Chief</b> Terri Brown				
<b>Councillor</b> Bradley Creyke	<b>Councillor</b> Dwayne Day	<b>Councillor</b> Shana Day/Dennis	<b>Councillor</b> Richard Jackson	<b>Councillor</b> Geraldine Quock

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce TCC President, Chad Day, and Vice-President, Heather L. Hawkins, as well as the Tahltan Band Council's newly elected Chief, Terri Brown.

## Chad Day



**Chad Day** has his Juris Doctorate in Law from the University of Victoria, a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies and Political Science through the University of Alberta, and completed comprehensive studies in Governance through Athabasca University. Now 27 years old, he was born in Vancouver and grew up in Telegraph Creek and Smithers, BC. Chad is excited to be taking on this new role and says that he is loving his new job representing the Tahltan Nation.

## Heather L. Hawkins



**Heather L. Hawkins** was recently hired as the Fisheries Manager for the Tahltan Band Council, where she played a pivotal role in this year's salmon rescue. She has extensive experience in the mining industry, having worked for nine years throughout the territory with companies like Barrick, Novagold, TNES and Imperial Metals, to name a few. Heather attended Douglas College in New Westminster, where she studied Criminology.

## Terri Brown



**Terri Brown** was born in Telegraph Creek and grew up in Lower Post. She attended residential school in Whitehorse and is now a member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's School Survivor Committee. Terri served as President of the Native Women's Association of Canada and has participated on boards that include the Vancouver Status of Women, BC Children's Hospital, and the Indian Residential School Advisory Committee for the Assembly of First Nations. She has three children and one six-year-old grandchild.

# 2014 TCC Annual General Assembly resolutions

The 2014 TCC Annual General Assembly in early July invited membership to vote on resolutions. A resolution is an idea related to TCC policy that is put forward for consideration. Before a resolution can pass, a majority of members at the meeting have to support the idea by voting in favour.

### Five resolutions received support from a majority of members and were passed at the AGM:

- Anyone running for an executive position needs to have a seconder and five other supporters before they can put their name on the leadership ballot.
- Recognizing that there are fewer than 40 fluent speakers of the Tahltan language, and that our language is considered to be

"nearly extinct," \$500,000.00 will be dedicated from the Tahltan Trust Fund to continue the revitalization of our language.

- The Tahltan Central Council Executive term will be changed from a two-year term to a three-year term.
- All Tahltan Elders who travel from outside the Tahltan Territory to attend the Annual General Meetings for the Tahltan Central Council, will have accommodations provided by the Tahltan Central Council.
- Where TNDC signs an agreement with a resource developer, project proponent or government and there is no IBA in place with the shareholders, then TNDC must notify the shareholders within 15 days' notice.

# Congratulations Tahltan graduates!



We would like to honour all of the Tahltan members who graduated from high school, post-secondary school and a number of certificate programs this year. You should all be very proud of your achievements!

Lots of graduates and their family members wrote or called us to share their accomplishments. We would like to specifically recognize those individuals and share some of their experiences with you.

**Lane Davignon** graduated from Vanier Catholic Secondary School; **Dean Tashoots**, **Tyrell Miller** and **Jason Vance** graduated from Dease Lake Elementary School; **Brandon Etzerza** graduated from Caledonia Senior Secondary School; and **Kala Cardinal**, **Nikita Day**, **Bodean Williams**, **Chasity Rozsas**, **Lane Davignon**, **Chanelle Woods**, **Telleighla Gies**, and **Scott Hawkins Jr.** all graduated from Smithers Secondary School.

When asked what he was most excited about on his graduation day, **Scott Hawkins Jr.** said it was "seeing the expressions on my family members' faces, getting my diploma, and stepping foot in my school one last time with my classmates." Scott played an impressive number of sports while attending Smithers Secondary. In his last two years, he played volleyball, basketball, hockey and rugby – all while staying on top of his schoolwork. He plans to attend Thompson Rivers



Chasity Rozsas

University to study police and justice in the near future.

Graduating this year from Smithers Secondary School, **Chasity Rozsas**, a member of the Cheona Wolf Clan, plans to attend Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops next fall. Though she is currently unsure which path she will take once she is there, she is excited for the adventures life will inevitably throw at her during this new chapter in her life. Her favourite memories from high school are from playing rugby. Her team became like a second family to her, and she will cherish the memories they made together forever.

**Brandon Etzerza** graduated from Caledonia Senior Secondary School this year in Terrace. Brandon is a member of the Wolf Clan. While he is mechanically inclined and spends much of his times fixing things, in the future Brandon would like to be an actor.

**Alexandria Edzerza** graduated from Porter Creek Secondary in Whitehorse on June 12th. Alexandria is a member of the Wolf Clan and spends most of her summers in Telegraph Creek at her family's fish camp. Having excelled in biology during high school, she plans to attend university and become a medical image technician. Before she moves forward with her education, Alexandria hopes to spend some time travelling to places like Europe and South America.

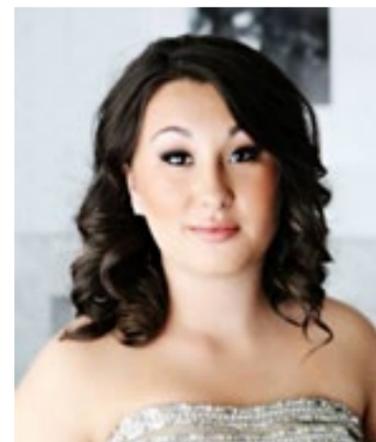


Brandon Etzerza

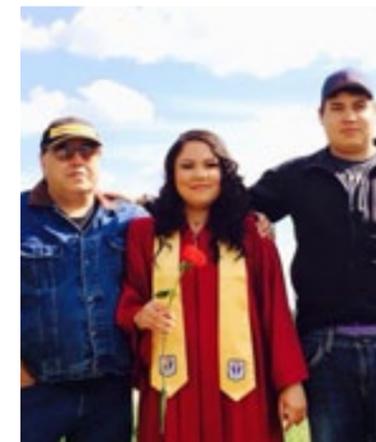
**Ainzley Rachel Wikenheiser** received her high school diploma from Kelowna Secondary School in June. Having spent time supporting special needs students during her last two years of high school, Ainzley grew interested in a career working with special needs students in the school

**"Never give up, keep trying and believe in yourself, and appreciate encouragement from your family"**

– Mercedes Abou, recent high school graduate



Ainzley Rachel Wikenheiser



Chantel Quock



Loretta Quock

system. She is enrolled at Okanagan College, where she will begin working towards her diploma in Human Service Work next month.

**Mercedes Chanelle Abou** is from the Tses'keya (Crow) Clan and is the oldest daughter of Peggy and Terry Abou. She is from Iskut where she was raised until she moved to Terrace in 2006 with her family for school. Mercedes graduated from Caledonia Sr. Secondary in June with her Dogwood diploma and will be attending Northwest Community College's Early Childhood Education program in the fall.

**Cassandra Puckett** is a member of the Crow Clan; her grandmother is Una Campbell and mother is Lillian Campbell. Cassandra recently completed her Bachelor of Social Work at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT), where her courses reflected Aboriginal perspectives, values and beliefs. Interested in learning from a holistic perspective that incorporates traditional knowledge, Cassandra knew NVIT was the right fit for her. Now that she's graduated, she is excited about moving forward and starting her Master of Social Work at Wilfred Laurier University in Ontario this fall.



Mercedes Chanelle Abou

Three Tahltan artists – **Loretta Quock Sort**, **Lyle Quock Jr.**, and **Roberta Quock** – graduated from the Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art, the only school in Canada that focuses on the skills needed to produce traditional First Nations Pacific Coast art. They exhibited their artwork at

the 2014 Student Art Exhibition - Arts of the North.

Another 10 Tahltan students successfully completed the Emergency Medical Responder course, hosted by the Justice Institute of BC. The course took place in Dease Lake at the Northern Lights College from February 22 to April 1, 2014.

**Chantel Quock**, graduated from the Natural Resources and Environmental Technology Diploma program at the College of New Caledonia. She is continuing with her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries to become a Registered Biologist.

We spoke with TCC President Chad Day about his experience attending the Tahltan graduate ceremony. He had this to say:

*"I was honoured to attend the ceremony where we acknowledged and celebrated the educational accomplishments of our newest Tahltan high school graduates, as well as three art school graduates. We did this in Telegraph Creek and it was awesome to see Tahltans and graduates from all three communities come together as one people to celebrate together – a wonderful display of unity. I gave the graduates three pieces of advice: (1) don't ever be afraid to reach out for help; (2) stay as balanced as possible in mind, body and spirit by living a healthy lifestyle; and (3) surround yourself with good people. I also want to say congratulations to all the Tahltan graduates from this year who were not present at the ceremony – good luck to you in the next chapter of your lives. I'm sure all our graduates will do amazing things and make the Tahltan Nation proud."*

We are so proud of all of you! Thank you for representing your fellow Tahltans and working so hard to study and succeed.

## National Aboriginal Day celebration 2014



On June 21st, Canadians from all walks of life participated in National Aboriginal Day events that took place from coast to coast – celebrating Aboriginal heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.

National Aboriginal Day is an occasion for us to come together to celebrate the richness and strength of our culture.

Festivities in Telegraph Creek kicked off with a delicious pancake breakfast prepared by local culinary experts. There were bannock-making and soapberry-making contests, karaoke, and various other contests. You might say that the main event this year was the men versus women tug-o-war contest. While the men put up a good fight, the women's team came out victorious,

demonstrating just how strong Tahltan women are!

Other highlights included Tahltan dancers, dressed in their finest regalia, accompanied by singing and drumming, who entertained the crowd at the recreation centre. Later in the afternoon, attendees received a musical treat hearing the young and very talented Jordan and Faith Bob perform a few songs. And after a sumptuous feast that included BBQ salmon, moose stew, and all the fixings, this special day came to a close as people started heading home, with smiles on their faces and full tummies.

This was a wonderful family event and an opportunity to celebrate and share our strong culture and reaffirm our identity as Tahltan people. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the success of this event.

## Tahltan youth representing the Nation at the North American Indigenous Games



In the March edition of our newsletter, we shared the story of Jaylene Soeguard representing the Tahltan Nation in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) that took place from July 20 to 27 in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Our Tahltan Nation has two more youth who also represented our people at the NAIG. From the Tahltan Band Newsletter (May 2014):

*Taylor Viik is the great-granddaughter of Eva Callbreath, and will be representing the Tahltan Nation on the U16 (under 16) BC Girls' volleyball team. She is a keen athlete who has been*

*involved in volleyball for several years, and was the Grade 9 recipient of the all-around athlete award for her school last year. Taylor not only demonstrates ability on the court but in the classroom as well. She attributes her success and versatility to her work ethic: "I put 100% into everything I do." Last year her achievements also included making the principal's list for academic performance.*

*Lilia Martinez is the granddaughter of Minnie Dennis, and will be representing the Tahltan Nation on the U15 (Under 15) BC Girls' soccer team. After competing in the 2013 BC Aboriginal Provincial Soccer Championships with the Interior Region team, she was selected by the champion Fraser River Region team as one of their all-star pick-ups. While at the games, Lilia will proudly wear both the Tahltan sweater handed down to her by her late grandmother and a ceremonial cape given to her by the Tahltan Band.*

**Thank you Tahltans! You make our Nation proud!**

## Tuya Construction Services helps the Stikine Riversong reopen its doors in Telegraph Creek

The Tahltan Band Council would like to put out their most sincere thanks to Tuya Construction Services for their incredible work redesigning the Stikine Riversong.

Tuya Construction Services, from Whitehorse, were hired in December 2013 to help renovate the Stikine Riversong, and to help on the following projects: The Tahltan Centre, Elders' six-plex, the repair of two duplexes and one house renovation.

Special thanks to owner Randy Merkel and crew with special mention to Justin Tizya who worked for five months, but had to return to his regular job with the Yukon Government. Also, thank you to the local Tahltan workforce who assisted with many of the local projects: Hazel Callbreath-Sharko, Avan Tashoots, Wayne Quash, Henry Hawkins, Dicky Reid, Lester Dennis, Gilbert Tashoots Jr. and Quentin Reid.

Now open, the Stikine Riversong offers daily specials — including delicious soups with fresh locally grown vegetables. Visitors can also purchase art and clothing designed by Tahltan artist Alano Edzerza, but hurry, as supplies are limited and going fast!

### Stikine Riversong Hours of Operation:

**Monday – Saturday:** 11am – 7pm  
**Sunday:** Closed

### Contact Us:

T: 250-235-3004  
E: riversongmanager@tahtlan.ca

**Note:** The Riversong will be closing 3rd week of September for the winter season.

## 2014 Tahltan Country Music Jam



The 11th annual Tahltan Country Music Jam was held over the August long weekend (August 1st to August 4th, 2014) at 6 Mile Flats outside of Telegraph Creek. This was a fantastic outdoor event and a highlight of the summer. Many talented musicians played, including Yvonne Tashoots, Andy Quock, Lorgan Bob, Adrian Carlick and Richard (Rocky) Jackson and about 25 others. The musicians set up on Wednesday evening and by Friday the jam was in full swing and a treat for the ears.

The campers enjoyed the sunny, warm weather and many people from out of town came to listen and play. Delicious food was provided by all of the vendors who set up to feed the hungry listeners. Other vendors sold jackets, sweaters, t-shirts and bags. There was a 50-50 draw and raffles for prizes, which were kindly donated to support the event. A kids' day was held on Sunday and the volunteers organized games and prizes for the children.

We are grateful to all of the volunteers and others who made donations to support the event. Thanks to all of the talent and listeners who came out to make this summer jam a roaring success.

## Honouring Wenda Day and Lizzie Edzerza

A headstone-raising potlatch was held on July 9 to show appreciation to the Wolf Clan members who assisted with the funeral arrangements and burial of Wenda Day (Jijekaye). Wenda was a member of the Crow Clan, and her family showed their appreciation to the Wolf Clan by giving gifts and holding a feast.

Wenda was dedicated to the Tahltan people and worked as the band manager for the communities of Dease and Telegraph Creek for many years. She was a mentor to many and was dedicated to the Tahltan people. Although she didn't have children of her own, she was a loving aunt to all of her nieces and nephews and was kind and respectful to all.

A memorial service was also held for Elizabeth (Lizzie) Edzerza in Telegraph Creek on July 12, 2014. Family travelled from great distances to say farewell and honour her life in a beautiful ceremony. The family shared stories, laughed and took comfort with each other as her ashes were buried.

Note: We will be honouring the late Pat Carlick Sr. in the next TCC newsletter.

# AltaGas projects set to benefit Tahltan Nation

Three AltaGas projects in the northwest are on track to benefit Tahltans in a big way!



AltaGas is partnering with the Tahltan Central Council, the Tahltan Band and the Iskut Band to implement three run-of-river hydroelectric facilities. Together the facilities will generate more than 270 megawatts of clean electricity.

Run-of-river projects use natural water flows from creeks or rivers to generate electricity. They produce sustainable energy with only minimal impacts on the environment. The three run-of-river projects being constructed and commissioned in the Tahltan traditional territory are McLymont Creek, Volcano Creek and Forrest Kerr.

## Construction

Construction of the Forrest Kerr project is now complete, and all three projects are expected to be constructed and commissioned by mid-2015, bringing exciting benefits to Tahltans.

Revenue-Sharing Agreements signed with the Province of BC will ensure Tahltans receive a share of the money that the

Province collects from AltaGas for its use of our water and land throughout the projects. That revenue will be re-invested in the Tahltan Nation as part of ongoing economic development initiatives.

## Agreements

Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) between the TCC, the Tahltan Band, the Iskut Band and AltaGas have also been signed for all three projects. Not only do these IBAs create opportunities for more profit sharing, they ensure Tahltan involvement in environmental protection and monitoring, and provide jobs and training opportunities directly to Tahltans.

An Environmental Performance Committee was established as part of the IBAs. It includes Tahltan representatives as well as those from AltaGas. Through our work as part of this committee, and the work of the Tahltan Resource Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT), we have minimized any cultural, social or environmental risks associated with the run-of-river projects.

The projects will all connect to the Northwest Transmission Line, which is a 287-kilovolt publicly owned transmission line, running between Skeena substation and Bob Quinn Lake. Together, the line and the run-of-river projects will supply clean electricity to the region, supporting regional development and contributing to a reduction in green house gas emissions.

## Respect

Our relationship with AltaGas has been based on mutual trust and respect. The agreements we have signed so far are evidence of this positive relationship, setting out a revenue-sharing structure and putting in place potential for jobs, contracts and skills development while ensuring that heritage, culture and the environment are protected.

We are excited to be implementing these projects in partnership with AltaGas, as we work towards a Tahltan goal of creating a financially, culturally and environmentally prosperous future for the Tahltan Nation.

# Red Chris: the impact of Mount Polley

How August's tailings disaster in Likely BC is changing conversations about the Red Chris Mine in our territory



The Mount Polley disaster has raised a number of questions and concerns regarding the safety of the tailings impoundment at the Red Chris Mine, located in Tahltan territory.

Tahltan Central Council (TCC) President Chad Day said, "We share members' concerns about Red Chris after the tailings pond disaster at Mount Polley, which is also owned by Imperial Metals. We must ensure that the Tahltan environment, culture and communities are protected now and in the future. We are and will continue to do everything in our power to make sure the Tahltan Nation avoids serious environmental risks at the Red Chris Mine."

The Klabona Keepers reacted to the disaster by blockading the Red Chris mine site near Iskut. To ensure that members' concerns about the Red Chris mine are meaningfully addressed, the TCC invited membership to attend community meetings in Iskut in late August to ask questions and provide input to leadership. The President and Vice-President of Imperial Metals, along with representatives of the Ministry of Energy and Mines, subsequently attended a community meeting to respond to membership's questions, comments and concerns.

After consultation with membership at these community meetings, the TCC

signed an interim agreement with Imperial Metals in late August. This agreement will implement the following:

- Imperial will fund an independent third-party review of the Red Chris tailings facility by an engineering firm chosen by the TCC. The review will make recommendations to ensure that the tailings facility is engineered, constructed and operated in accordance with world-class standards, and Imperial has agreed to comply with recommendations arising out of the review.

- Imperial will have prepared a robust training plan for Tahltans within three weeks of signing the agreement.

- Tahltans are guaranteed preference for employment opportunities at the mine, and at least 50% of environmental positions will be Tahltan members.

- Further contracts have been guaranteed for the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation.

In addition, Provincial Energy and Mines Minister Bill Bennett said he will not allow the Red Chris Mine to open without the independent third-party review first being satisfactory to the Tahltan leadership.

The results of the third-party review should be finalized by October of this year and will be shared with Tahltan

membership through community meetings.

To date, a full Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) has not been signed with Imperial Metals. IBA negotiations continue, and will be informed by the results of the third-party review. The TCC will organize meetings with local and urban Tahltan communities as these negotiations progress. Any IBA will be brought back to Tahltan membership for a ratification vote.

Tahltan members with any specific questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the TCC office by phone at 250-771-3274 or emailing [info@tahtlan.org](mailto:info@tahtlan.org).

**Mount Polley:** In August, the dam at Mount Polley Mine's tailing pond failed. As a result, 10 million cubic metres of wastewater and more than four million cubic metres of sediment spilled into Hazelton Creek.

While test results released now show that the discharged sediment is not toxic for humans, it is still feared it may harm aquatic life. Our hearts and prayers are with everyone affected by this event and we hope cleanup efforts continue to minimize negative impacts on the environment.

# Positive progress for Dzimēs Chō T'oh - the Iskut Language Nest



“Every time I hear one of the children repeat a Tahltan phrase that I’m saying, it gives me so much joy and hope for the future of our Tahltan language. I believe every Aboriginal community should open a language nest in their community.”

The Dzimēs Chē T'oh - The Iskut Language Nest, an immersion home-like setting in which only the Tahltan language is spoken, was opened on May 20. It operates Mondays to Wednesdays from 9am to 3pm. There are currently five children attending the language nest, which is located in the house behind the Iskut Band Council office. Angela and Regina Dennis are the program's fluent speakers, and Iskut's language research assistant Ryan Dennis also helps with the program. The language nest coordinator is Odelia Dennis. Odelia said she is inspired by the positive results from the language nest so far.

Planning for the Iskut Language Nest began in April 2013 when Angela and Odelia had the opportunity to visit a language nest in Chase, BC. The trip was both amazing and inspiring for them, and allowed them to see the results of daily immersion. It also helped them realize that a Tahltan language nest was possible.

“It was great to see that everyday normal conversations with the children while

taking care of them and having playtime and reading time with them was all it took to be able to open our very own language nest in our home community,” said Odelia. “The children are learning the Tahltan language. They understand and some are even beginning to speak Tahltan. My son Arden is speaking more and more Tahltan language every day. The children enjoy being there with us and they feel comfortable in their environment.

“Every time I hear one of the children repeat a Tahltan phrase that I’m saying, it gives me so much joy and hope for the future of our Tahltan language. I believe every Aboriginal community should open a language nest in their community.

“The families of the language nest children have proven to be so important in the revitalization of the language. We receive so much support on a daily basis from the families. The siblings stop in to help their parents in picking up their brother or sister and learn one or two words in Tahltan. When parents are there to pick up their child they do their best to speak the language too. They are also

learning phrases that we use repetitively with the children. Some grandparents come in and sit with their grandchild and watch our interactions with the children. These past four weeks have been a good beginning to something amazing that is happening in our community.”

Plans are in place to open a language nest in Dease Lake in the fall of 2014 and one in Telegraph Creek in 2015.

The Iskut Language Nest gratefully acknowledges the support of several people and organizations, without whom the language nest would not be possible:

- Dr. Kathryn Michel
- First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Iskut Band Council and staff
- Iskut Valley Health Services
- Iskut Valley Head Start Program
- Klappan School
- Regina Louie and Angela Dennis (fluent speakers)

# Introducing the Dah Dzahge Nodesidē/ Tahltan Language and Culture Council



**Left to right:** Judy Thompson, Tahltan Language and Culture Lead; Patrick Etzerza, Dease Lake representative; Melva Quock, TCC representative; Pauline Hawkins, Tahltan School Language Teacher, Chair of DDN; Ryan Dennis, Tahltan Language Research Assistant; Odelia Dennis, Tahltan Language Revitalization Coordinator (Dease Lake) and Language Nest Coordinator (Iskut); Regina Louie, Iskut representative; Angela Dennis, Klappan School Language Teacher; Pat Carlick Sr. (late), Telegraph Creek representative

The Dah Dzahge Nodesidē/Tahltan Language and Culture Council has been created to provide guidance in the creation of short- and long-term language and culture revitalization plans, to serve as the decision-making body for Tahltan language and culture revitalization, and to act as a language authority in the certification of Tahltan language teachers for the BC Teacher regulation branch. The council is made up of a Tahltan speaker from each community, a TCC representative, the language teacher from each community, and members of the Tahltan Language Revitalization Team.

The Tahltan language is an essential part of who we are as Tahltan people. It is stated clearly in the language and culture vision statement from the March 2012 Socio-Cultural Working Group Leadership Forum: “Didene E Kune Mehōdih Eku Desijih – All Tahltan people are living the Tahltan way of life.”

Promoting our language and culture, and creating awareness among our people about the importance of our language and how it connects us to our land, our

Elders, our Ancestors, our culture, our identity as Tahltan people, our well-being and health, will serve as a form of empowerment for our nation.

### Purpose of Dah Dzahge Nodesidē:

- To document, preserve, promote, and revitalize the Tahltan language and culture.
- To bring our communities together into one strong nation in order to work together to revitalize the Tahltan language and culture.
- To increase the number of fluent speakers.

### Roles and responsibilities of Dah Dzahge Nodesidē:

- To provide guidance in the promotion of the Tahltan language to our Tahltan people living within and outside our territory, as well as to non-Tahltans living within our territory.
- To provide guidance in the creation of short- and long-term language plans.
- To provide guidance in the development of a language policy.

- To serve as the decision-making body for language and culture revitalization.
  - To act as a language authority in the certification of Tahltan language teachers for the BC Teacher Regulation Branch.
  - To address language issues of orthography and new vocabulary.
  - To be the nation's point of contact for individuals and/or groups researching Tahltan language and culture.
  - To advertise the existence and role of Dah Dzahge Nodesidē on a website with links to contacts and resources.
  - To research and recommend traditional and cultural protocols.
  - To review language curriculum, plans, guides, materials, resources, documentation, and teaching strategies prior to implementation in schools or communities.
- The committee will exist until all Tahltan people can speak the language.

## Exciting new updates from the SWCG's language program

### Indigitization project — documenting and digitizing our language

The Language and Culture Council received funding from the University of British Columbia to purchase equipment and take part in workshops to learn how to digitize audio-cassettes. Members of the Tahltan Revitalization Team will be able to digitize audiotapes for Tahltan organizations and Tahltan individuals. Team members are also recording speech and conversations with fluent speakers on a continual basis. Transcripts from these interviews are continually being added to the dictionary and grammar guide.

Through Simon Fraser University's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) partnership grant, members of the Tahltan Language Revitalization team have been in meetings with Simon Fraser University about the development of apps as one method to teach the Tahltan language.

Recording equipment has been donated by Galore Creek Mining Corporation (MacBook Pro, 2 iTVs) and Simon Fraser University's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

(SSHRC) Grant (MacBook Air, PC laptop for dictionary work, Roland recorder, three headsets).

### Tahltan children's books coming soon

The Dah Dzahge Nodesidē — Tahltan Language and Culture Council is working on children's books featuring stories told by our Ancestors. Once the books are printed, copies will be given out to all members of the Tahltan Nation, as well as to organizations and institutions within our Nation working with our children.

In January 2014, the Language and Culture Council applied for funding through Success by 6 — a provincial initiative dedicated to ensuring that children from birth to six years have the support they need to ensure their healthy growth and development.

As part of Simon Fraser University's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Grant, Angela Dennis will be transcribing and translating three recorded stories told by Robert Quock, which were recorded by John Alderete. These stories will be used as a basis for three children's books.

## Tahltan roadblock seeks to limit moose hunting



On August 20, 2014, a group of Tahltan Elders set up a roadblock on Highway 51 between Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek to limit moose hunting in their territory. The roadblock was set up to draw focus to the issue of unsustainable hunting practices and to press the BC government to start regulating and managing moose hunting and address outdated moose population data.

"Hunters come into our territory and just kill as many moose as

they want," said Chief Terri Brown. "It's not OK. We have been concerned that too many people come here to hunt moose without a proper understanding of our territory. It's a big issue for us because we have one of the longest hunting seasons in the province."

While the provincial government claims moose populations are not in danger, the Tahltan are concerned these claims are based on outdated and unreliable data. They are concerned that in reality, moose populations may not be sustainable at the rates that they are being hunted and that there is an absence of reliable data on moose population estimates in their territory.

"The position of the Tahltan Nation has been to have regular population surveys, community-based monitoring, and increased enforcement for more appropriate wildlife management," said Tahltan Central Council President Chad Day. "When that is not possible, a precautionary approach is needed — that means using tools like reduced hunting seasons or Limited Entry Hunting draws until moose population information is available to make informed decisions."

The Tahltan held a community meeting with government representatives on September 3 to discuss moose hunting in the territory. The objective of the meeting was to find a way to work together to ensure a sustainable moose population is maintained in the Tahltan territory. Meetings with the entire Nation to discuss this issue as well as solutions put forward by the government will be taking place later in September.

## Tahltan Band demands new permits for transport companies



A low bed had a close call when it slipped off the road on July 29, 2014 at 10 Mile

The Tahltan Band Council passed a new resolution on August 1, 2014 that introduces new rules for permission to use Highway 51, the only road into the Tahltan community of Telegraph Creek.

The resolution was passed after a series of close calls and mishaps. On July 29, 2014 a low bed truck slipped off the road at 10 Mile. This incident raised serious transportation concerns regarding bridge safety, road maintenance, and the possibilities of further blockage.

The new BCR states that "The Tahltan Band Council will no longer permit the transport of industrial machinery for mining-related purposes including but not limited to rock trucks, excavators, cats, and low beds." It applies to Tahltan Reserves #1, #6, #6A, #8 and #12 and requires anyone who falls under any of the categories explained above to be able to show written consent on demand if required.

To obtain a permit, please contact the Tahltan Band Council office at 250-235-3151 or download one from online at [www.tahltan.ca](http://www.tahltan.ca).

## Chief thanks 'Team Tahltan' for coordinated salmon rescue



At the end of May, salmon returning up the Tahltan River were trapped by a rockslide, partially blocking part of the river. The salmon that return to these spawning grounds started to arrive at the slide in early July, and local residents, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), as well as other Good Samaritans from around the province reacted fast to save this valuable resource.

The rockslide, combined with high levels of fast-flowing water, impeded the salmon from making it to their spawning grounds. Tahltan Band manager Ryan Franke told the CBC, "We had to work with DFO in a coordinated effort to do a capture and transport operation. We dug a holdings pond on the side of the river, captured a bunch of salmon, put them in there, and then brought in a helicopter to give them a first-class ride over the slide."

Gayleen Day, a Tahltan member of the Crow Clan, along with other Spiritual leaders, elected leaders, Elders, and other supporters held prayer vigils for the rescued salmon to reach their spawning grounds.

"Salmon have been the lifeblood of the Tahltan people for many

generations," explained Franke. "That rockslide could potentially block all the salmon that will come through the area, if we don't do anything about it, we'll basically lose all of them. We definitely see the need to help them out."

Chief Terri Brown is thankful to members and helpers, affectionately dubbed 'Team Tahltan' by some local residents, after thousands of the salmon returning to spawn were rescued.

"I would like to thank all those who assisted in the salmon-recovery operation organized by the TBC for their outstanding efforts to save our salmon," she said. "A huge team came together to help them get around the slide. In total, nearly 5,000 salmon were moved up river. On behalf of my nation, I want to thank everyone involved in this effort."

Heather L. Hawkins, Fisheries Manager, added: "I would like to acknowledge all the amazing people who came together for this important initiative. Without the efforts of each and every one of these individuals, we would not have been as successful as we were."

### Helpers in the rescue included:

**Tahltan Fisheries Program:** Cheri Frocklage, Heather Hawkins, Gary Dennis, Gerald Quash, Myles and Russel Sampson, Collin Ball, Terry Ball, Jordan Hawkins, Maggie Asp, Reagan Asp, Edward Asp, Michael Nole, Jared Dennis, Sean Hawkins, Scotty Hawkins Jr., Trysten Hawkins, Jocelyn Etzerza, Sonia Dennis, Former Tahltan Chief Rick Mclean, Gary Merkel, Aaron Brown.

**DFO:** Pete Etherton, Sean Stark, Johnny Sembsmoen, Sean Collins and Shaun McFarland.

# Jasmine Netsena's Canadian tour



We previously introduced folk singer/song-writer Jasmine Netsena when she launched her debut album, "Take You With Me," which she dedicated to her two grandmothers, Jean Brown (Tahltan) and Celine Netsena (Dene). When we last spoke with her, she was about to begin a cross-Canada tour.

Now returning from tour, Jasmine spoke to us about her experience on her first tour, shared some of the highlights, and told us a few of her plans for the near future.

This was the first time Jasmine managed and coordinated her own tour. While she has done many less organized events, this was the first time where she was even responsible for negotiating her own pay.

"It was a good learning experience," she told us. "It's interesting to see what you're made of when it comes down to business."

But Jasmine's business savvy wasn't the only growth she experienced, "I think I came out of it a better musician — singing every night for six weeks really strengthens your ability as a musician," she told us.

While seeing the country and her performances were certainly high points of the tour for Jasmine, when asked what stood out to her she told us that "it was so fun getting to hang out with my brother (Elliott Brown). We laughed a lot and I wouldn't have been able to do the tour without his support."

As for what is next, Jasmine is looking forward to winding down

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"My grandmothers sang to me a lot when I was a kid — they sang me drum songs, singing to me in Tahltan and Dene language. This was my first exposure to singing and how I began to learn to sing"

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and has one last show for the year. She will be playing at the Blue Feather Music Festival in Whitehorse on November 7th. Which is, according to Jasmine, "a pretty big deal" because she will be taking the stage the same night as Canadian Aboriginal folk icon Buffy Sainte Marie. She is also nominated for two Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards for Best New Artist and Best New Folks Acoustic CD, which are taking place September 12 (2014) in Winnipeg.

Please show your support for Jasmine by visiting her website at: [www.jasminenetsena.com](http://www.jasminenetsena.com), where you can learn more about her and listen to some of her songs. Her album is also available for download on iTunes or CDs are available to order from CD Baby ([www.cdbaby.com/cd/jasminenetsena](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/jasminenetsena)).

# Congratulations Tahltans!



Meranda Creyke and Mason Ewing are pleased to share:

**Laurelynn Elise Louise Ewing**

Born on June 1, 2014  
Weight: 6lb, 4oz



Bobby Ward and Verna Vance are happy to welcome:

**Kaleb Lorn Joseph Vance**

Born on July 19, 2014  
Weight: 8lb, 2oz



Ronnie Carlick, Barbara Bolton are happy to welcome:

**Michelle Dawn Rose Carlick**

Born on August 31, 2014  
Weight: 6 lbs, 15 oz



Cassandra Woodward and Dakota Williams are proud to announce:

**Callum Mark Peter Williams**

Born on June 19, 2014  
Weight: 8lb, 13oz



Alvina McKay and Ty Abou are proud to announce:

**Mataya Janae Braylee Amy Abou**

Born on May 22, 2014  
Weight: 7lbs, 4oz



Bianca Fowler & Dion Stewart are happy to welcome:

**Romeo Dion Edmund Kyle Sterling Stewart**

Born on July 24, 2014  
Weight: 8 lbs, 3 oz

## Join the Tahltan men's team at the All-Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert, BC

A group of Tahltan men are interested in starting a team to participate in the All-Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert. There is a qualifying tournament that will take place November 19-22, 2014. If the team qualifies, they will compete in the actual tournament February 8-14, 2015.

Anyone interested in playing, please email the TCC office at: [tamara.dennis@tahtlan.org](mailto:tamara.dennis@tahtlan.org).

If you are not yet a fan of TCC's Facebook Page, please head to [www.facebook.com/tahtlancentralcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/tahtlancentralcouncil) to stay up-to-date with nation news and events, job postings, member birthdays, anniversaries, and other accomplishments.

## Save the date

### Brucejack Gold Mine: Open Houses

Thursday, September 11, 2014

**Dease Lake:** 10:00am, Community Hall

Thursday, September 11, 2014

**Iskut:** 5:00pm, Klappan Independent Day School

### Alta Gas: Open Houses

Friday, September 19, 2014

**Iskut:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Community Hall

Saturday, September 20, 2014

**Telegraph Creek:** 11:30am – 1:30pm, Recreation Centre

Saturday, September 20, 2014

**Dease Lake:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm, Community Hall

### Box Social

October 18, 2014

**Dease Lake:** Community Hall