

Ch'ëdoghor Sranän

Play month

June 2025



Äh'à shin honlay.

It is summer outside.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizens!

Complete the  
**HÄN LANGUAGE  
REVITALIZATION SURVEY**

for a chance to win a \$350  
Air North Gift Card!



**Your input matters!**

Share with the Education Oversight  
Committee how you think we can better  
improve **Hän Language** teaching, learning  
and fluency.



Follow the QR code to  
complete the survey  
by **Friday, June 6!**



**Disbursement Grant Reminder:**

This is a friendly reminder to send your receipts and proof of expenses for the 2024 Disbursement Grant.

You can submit your receipts by:

- Emailing them to [disbursements@trondek.ca](mailto:disbursements@trondek.ca)
- Mailing them to: **Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in**  
**PO Box 599,**  
**Dawson City YT,**  
**Y0B 1G0**
- Stopping by the Finance department in person

Submitting receipts helps keep things moving smoothly for everyone and will ensure quick processing of the next Disbursement Grant when one becomes available.

Mähsj' cho for your help - we really appreciate it!

**Council Meetings**

Citizens can attend in-person or via Zoom.  
Please go to [trondek.ca](http://trondek.ca) or our FB page for the Zoom links.

**Wednesday, June 4**

TH Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm in Council Chambers, Room 201A

**Tuesday, June 10**

Elders Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm at Äät Nëhëjël

**Wednesday, June 18**

TH Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm in Council Chambers, Room 201A

**Thursday, June 26**

Special Elders Council Meeting: Open Discussion @ 5:30 pm at Äät Nëhëjël

**Monday, June 30**

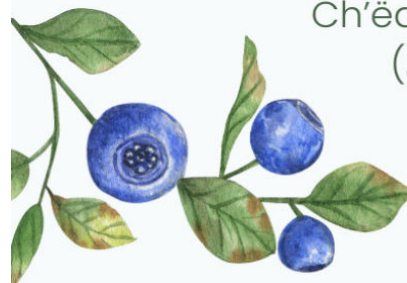
TH Youth Council Meeting @ 5:00 pm at K'äjít-in Zho  
For Council Meeting enquiries and to ask about virtual attendance via Zoom  
please email [council.support@trondek.ca](mailto:council.support@trondek.ca)



*Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in*

**Post-Secondary  
Funding Deadline**

Ch'ëdoghor Sranän  
(June) 16th



For more information,  
or to receive applications, email:  
[natalja.blanchard@trondek.ca](mailto:natalja.blanchard@trondek.ca)



JOIN US FOR

# ELDERS DINNER

AT JĒJE ZHO

FIRST WEDNESDAY | 5:00 PM  
OF EVERY MONTH | 6:30 PM

**STARTING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4**

Come by to enjoy good food, a cup of tea and chat with residents and staff!

For more information, contact:  
[jamie.lancaster-madden@trondek.ca](mailto:jamie.lancaster-madden@trondek.ca)

## The Legal Aid Lawyer will be in Dawson:

June 16  
2:00 - 6:00 pm  
Administrative Building, Room 211

## The Legal Aid Lawyer will be available to speak with clients for Court.

Court will be held on **June 17 at 10:00 am**, upstairs at the Dawson City Museum for persons whose name appears on the docket.

For more information, please contact: [Lorraine.Granston@trondek.ca](mailto:Lorraine.Granston@trondek.ca)

**TH GRADUATES of 2025**

There is a Grade 12 High School Graduation Bursary available for Trondec Hwëch'in citizens

Bursary is \$100 gift card for Staples, \$300 towards graduation regalia, traditional gift

Application Deadline June 30 2025

Please reach out to TH Education for the grad bursary application form!

**CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFO**  
[education@trondek.ca](mailto:education@trondek.ca)

There is a grade 12 High School Graduation Bursary available for TH Citizens.

The bursary is for a \$100 gift card to staples, \$300 towards graduation regalia, and a traditional gift.

Please reach out to TH Education for the Grad Bursary Application Form: [education@trondek.ca](mailto:education@trondek.ca)

Application deadline is June 30, 2025

Congratulations to all the grads!

Ni'ehlyat Nidähji invites all families to

# FAMILY SUMMER CAMP

at Nänkäk Chëholay (Land of Plenty)

## June 12-15th

Contact us at 867-993-3975 for registration/cabin booking

- Dene Games
- Handgames
- Laser Tag
- Water Balloons
- & More!

## A Grand Opening! Dänojä Wëthchën: Long-Ago Potlatch Exhibit

The morning of May 20 marked the opening of the new summer exhibition at Dänojä Zho Cultural Centre (DZCC). TH Staff and community members gathered out front of DZCC to celebrate the opening with story, song, dance and thoughtful words.

*Dänojä Wëthchën: Long-Ago Potlatch Exhibit*, curated by River Doucette, is a showcase of both historical and traditional knowledge as well as sacred items which are intrinsic to traditions surrounding the long-ago potlatch.

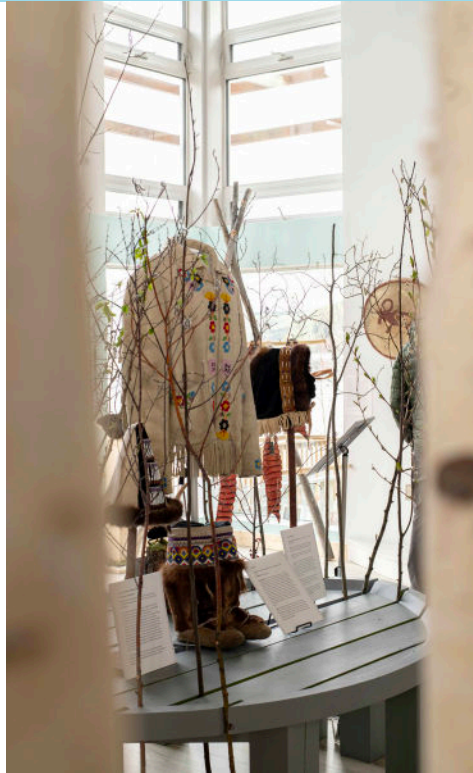
The long-ago potlatch is a sacred gathering which involved ceremony and reciprocal bonding and kinship between people, clans and neighboring First Nations.

As part of the exhibition, TH Elders, staff and community members undertook the important project of revitalizing the high heritage item: the tall potlatch hat. This began quietly 2 years ago when Elders visiting DZCC were shown a rare photograph from 1907 featuring Hän dancers adorned in tall, pointed ceremonial hats. This image sparked a wave of curiosity.

Elder Doris Roberts was among those who recognized the significance of the photos and identified the subjects as Hän relatives.

After seeking traditional knowledge from Elders, the research expanded to search for similar traditions from neighboring nations. A photo of a similar tall hat was discovered among the Yakutat Tlingit of Alaska. This photo, which showed more detail, helped build confidence that a Hän specific ceremonial hat could also be reconstructed by a commissioned artist.

Faye Chamberlain, Dawson City-based Indigenous artist and sewist was asked to use the research and images to recreate the Hän potlatch hat.



Chamberlain constructed the potlatch hat using traditional techniques and authentic materials such as antique trade beads, sacred dentalium shells, and ermine fur.

Upon its completion, the hat was gifted to Hähkë Darren Taylor. It will be worn during sacred ceremonies and significant cultural gatherings.

The journey of understanding and establishing protocols for the tall potlatch hat is ongoing. After consulting with Elders, workshops will be held with Chamberlain to teach Hän/ Tr'ondëk Citizens how to reconstruct future potlatch hats.

Accompanying the tall potlatch hat are an impressive array of ceremonial objects. Among them is a Long-Ago Bonnet made by Sharon and Sheila Vittrekwa (no-cry).

"Over the years, I have brought back some of our patterns, sewing patterns, regalia, customs, songs, teachings. I was raised by Elders and have continuously worked with Elders where I live and work." says Sharon.

The hope of this exhibition is to share the knowledge and foster revitalization of traditions to prevent some of these high heritage practices from being lost to history forever.

Mähshj' cho to all the community members who contributed to the making of this exhibition.

The exhibition is open 10:00 am - 4:00 pm daily until August 29.

Come by for a cup of tea, a visit and to experience *Dänojä Wëthchën* for yourself!

Dänojä Zho Cultural Centre:  
(867) 993-7100 ext. 500



## April Events

### Planning for the Future

## Wédzey nēk-'āy! I see a caribou!



Congratulations to the recent recipients of the Arctic Inspiration Prize: Empowering Northern Voices. This group of driven youth will use the \$100,000 in prize money to create “Empowering Northern Voices: Youth Gathering for Yukon, NWT and Nunavut.” This event will focus on cultural exchange, leadership development and collaborative problem solving to address issues affecting northern youth.

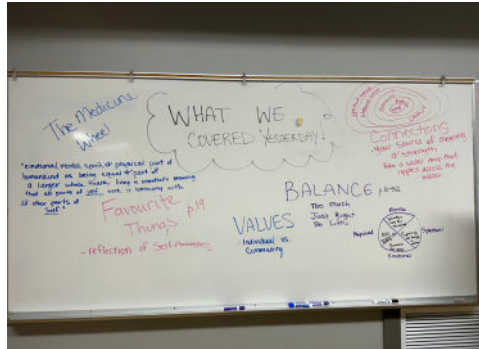
Pictured here are recipients Alexandria Nagano, Parker Gammie, Shay Cochrane, Stacey McDiarmid, Cassidy Everitt, Melia Gammie and Jada Silver with Premier Ranj Pillai.

The TH Education Adult Learning team hosted the first round of Guiding Circles: An Indigenous Guide to Finding Career Paths on May 21-23 at Nānkāk Chēhōlay and Tr'odēk Hātr'unohātān Zho | Yukon University Dawson Campus.

The Guiding Circles purpose is to help gain a better understanding of yourself to help determine a career direction. The workshops help participants consider their own needs and values, as well as connection and role in community and family. Participants did a Medicine Wheel exercise to help understand their gifts, who they are and how to develop their individual gifts and strengths to find a clear path forward.

Becky, Katie and Natalja were joined by co-facilitator Debbie Nagano and the Elders on Campus hosts Roberta Joseph and Angie Joseph-Rear to offer the workshop to four TH Citizens.

If you are interested in joining the second part of this two part workshop, get in touch with the Adult Learning team! Email [becky.alderson@trondek.ca](mailto:becky.alderson@trondek.ca) for more information.



Tr'ondēk Hwēch'in staff visited Old Crow this month to attend Caribou Days. The trip was an opportunity to strengthen community relationships and ties between Vuntut Gwitchin and Tr'ondēk Hwēch'in.

Māhsj' cho to the community of Old Crow for welcoming our staff with open arms and warm hospitality!

## April Events

### Community Meet & Greet at the Whitehorse Office



On May 21, we opened the doors to our Whitehorse office and let the coffee percolate, the moose stew simmer, and the bannock warm up just right.

No sign-in sheets, no microphones—just old-fashioned visiting the way we like it. People came in with big smiles, hearty handshakes, and a few good jokes tucked up their sleeves. It was the kind of gathering where you sit down for five minutes and end up staying two hours, catching up on local news, teasing the new staff a little, and maybe sharing a memory or two over a plate of dry meat and fish.

We were proud to welcome a room full of friendly faces—from Whitehorse locals to folks from other First Nations, and even a few from organizations like the Yukon Food Security Network, the Anti-Poverty Coalition, and FASSY. It was a time to slow down, enjoy one another's company, and build those small but important connections that make a community strong. We introduced our new team (don't worry, we're teaching them how to make bannock properly), talked about the services we offer, and most importantly, just spent time together.

Mähshj' cho to everyone who joined us – **Nëkhwätr'ënoh'ay gha shò tr'inlay** – we were so happy to see you all. Let's do it again soon... maybe with seconds on the stew next time.

### A New Addition to our Heritage Collection



Kathy Jones-Gates and her husband Michael Gates stopped by the Heritage department at the end of May with a very special contribution to the Heritage Collection: two pairs of mint condition mukluks made by Annie Henry! It is thought the mukluks were most likely made over the winter of 1982 - 83.

Kathy, the then manager of Maximillian's, acquired them from Annie in the spring of 83'. Annie came into Max's to ask if she could sell her winters work in the store. Over the summer season, many of Annie's mittens, slippers, gauntlets and mukluks were sold to visitors and passers by. At the end of the season, Kathy purchased the last two pairs of mukluks left.

Both pairs are adorned with traditional beaded floral patterns on a white background and green leaves onto hand tanned hide, while the remainder is put together with commercial hide. There is a fringed ring around the cuffs, and a braid of red and turquoise yarn attaching two orange pompoms. These mukluks were only worn once, and despite being over 40 years old look brand new!

If you'd like more information on the Heritage Collection, feel free to reach out to the Heritage Collection Steward, Dylan Meyerhoffer at [dylan.meyerhoffer@trondek.ca](mailto:dylan.meyerhoffer@trondek.ca) or (867) 993-7121

### A new name for the Indian River is on the horizon...

Heritage and Implementation are currently exploring a **new culturally appropriate and community driven Hän name for the Indian River**. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in People have lived and cared for the Indian River watershed for millennia and it is important that citizens continue to feel a connection to this place.

This initiative is not totally new. Over the past several years there has been previous work done to identify a new name; however, no official name has been brought forward yet. This spring TH Council approved a process by which a new name could be explored, which includes working with the Elder's Council and engaging with Citizens directly. To assist this work, Implementation and Heritage have begun compiling background material and contacting Citizens who may have an interest in this initiative and will be visiting the Elders Council in June. **It is our hope to bring a new name to the larger Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in community over the summer for discussion and feedback.**

If this initiative interests you or you have information to share, please get in touch with Donna Michon at [donna.michon@trondek.ca](mailto:donna.michon@trondek.ca) or (867) 993-7100 ext. 247.

### Youth Engagement & Information Session



Discussion on the Ni'ehtyat Nidähji' Framework  
At K'äjìt-in Zho

Wednesday, June 4, 3:30 - 5:00 pm : Pizza provided!

Wednesday, June 11, 2:00 - 4:00 pm : Bannock Wednesday!



# Ready 2 Work!



Ready 2 Work is a collaborative program between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Education & Training, Ni'ehtyat Nidähji & K'äjìt-in Zho focusing on employment readiness and skills development for youth ages 12-15.

**When? Mid-June till mid-August, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons (with some exceptions)**

#### Activites TBD

- A day on the river with Victor Henry and John Mitchell
- A Journey of Plant Medicine Nature Walk with Fran Morberg-Green
- TH Career Crawl
- Job Shadow Day
- How to be a student with TH Education K-12 Team
- Guiding Circles: An Indigenous Guide to Finding Career Paths
- Entrepreneurial Experience

#### Confirmed Activities!

**June 18:** Orientation - how to set up a SIN, open a bank account, read timecards, and employee responsibility

**June 24:** Workshops with BYTE- Empowering Youth on Healthy Relationships and Healthy Minds

**June 25:** Workshop with BYTE- Empowering Youth on Leadership Styles

**July 10:** Budgeting & Finances for youth with Alex Somerville

**July 22:** Workshop with BYTE- Equity & Allyship

**July 23:** Workshop with BYTE- Power to Prevent: staying safe online

**This is a paid opportunity for youth ages 12 - 15!**



For more information, please contact the  
Employment Pathways Coordinator:  
[Becky.Alderson@trondek.ca](mailto:Becky.Alderson@trondek.ca) or call (867) 993-3765

\*Students who have registered for the 2025 TH Summer Student Jobs Program will start the week of June 9 in their respective departments.



**FIRST FISH, FIRST HUNT & CULTURE CAMPS 2025**  
Jordan's Principle Application

Are you a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizen *not* living on Traditional Territory and are interested in sending an Indigenous Youth to First Fish, First Hunt and other Culture Camps this year?

If so, please contact:  
Tiffany Thomas  
Nì'ehtyat Nidähjì'-Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator  
Phone: (867) 993-4109  
Email: [tiffany.thomas@trondek.ca](mailto:tiffany.thomas@trondek.ca)  
by June 9, 2025!




**Van Bibber - Blanchard Family & Friends Reunion**  
Saturday, July 5, 2025  
Five Mile Lake, Mayo, Yukon

Come camp for the weekend.  
Potluck dinner starts at 5:00 pm - Bring your favourite dish to share! Bring a gift for Indian Bingo! Everyone is welcome!



**SPRING HIDE CAMP**  
Nänkäk Chéholay  
May 31 - June 8, 2025



For more information or to register, email [Sharon.Vittrekwa@trondek.ca](mailto:Sharon.Vittrekwa@trondek.ca)




**TH CITIZENS & VENDORS!**

**Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will be phasing out cheque payments by **March 31, 2026****

**To avoid any disruption in payment, please submit your direct deposit information as soon as possible.**

SEND A VOID CHEQUE OR DIRECT DEPOSIT FORM FROM YOUR BANK TO:

[payables@trondek.ca](mailto:payables@trondek.ca)

Or by mail: Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in  
Attn: Finance Department  
Box 599  
Dawson City, YT  
Y0B 1G0

# NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



June 21, 2025 | 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Dānojà Zho Cultural Centre



**HÄN SINGERS**

**RIVER DOUCETTE**

**WAHIA TE POURI TAMOU**

**BOYD BENJAMIN &  
KEVIN BARR**

**UNCLE JIMMY &  
THE HAMMERSTONES**

**THE DAWSON CITY  
FIDDLERS**

**HAND GAMES,  
BANNOCK  
& MORE!**

**EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME**



National Indigenous Peoples Day is June 21, 2025!

Please join us for live performances, hand games, bannock and more!

This year, our poster features the Christiansen family. Mähşj cho to the Christiansens for honouring us and coming together in celebration of this important day!

Every year, we feature a different family for the National Indigenous Peoples Day poster.

**Image ID** - Top: Shane Christiansen, James Christiansen, George McLeod, Esther Christiansen, Hayden McHugh, Charmaine Christiansen Bottom: Shailey Carlick, Art Christiansen, Eldria Christiansen, Khloe Carlick