

Slippers by Annie Henry, from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Collection



**Łay Sranän**  
*Dog Month*



**MAY**

**2026**

*The snow is melting. Zhä täwdëlit.*

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## Upcoming 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.

### Tuesday, May 5:

Special Elders Council Meeting @ 5:30pm in Ätät Nēhējël  
Yukon Residential School Missing Children Project & Known History

### Wednesday, May 6:

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

### Tuesday, May 12:

Elders Council Meeting @ 5:30pm in Ätät Nēhējël

### Wednesday, May 20:

TH Council Meeting @ 5:30pm

in Town Hall Conference Room, Best Western Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse

### Tuesday, May 26:

Youth Council Meeting @ 5:00pm in 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)

## A notice from Housing & Infrastructure:

### *It's time to turn off your bleeders!*

Spring is here and we would like to remind all TH residents to turn off their bleeders on May 31, 2026.

If you need help with turning your bleeder off, please send an email to work order email [workorder@trondek.ca](mailto:workorder@trondek.ca) or [tenantrelations@trondek.ca](mailto:tenantrelations@trondek.ca) to request assistance with that.

Mähsj cho and happy spring.



## Emergency Preparedness Week

Emergency Preparedness week is May 4 - 10, 2026! Please keep an eye on our Facebook Page for an events schedule for the week.

There will be events, games, and activities. Effective emergency response depends on a community that is aware, educated and involved. By learning how to prepare yourself, your family and your workplace - and by understanding how local emergency services operate.

A prepared community is a resilient community.

A poster for Bear Witness Day. The background is dark with silhouettes of children holding hands. The text reads: "NI'EHLYAT NIDÄHJÌ INVITES YOU TO HONOUR THE LIFE OF JORDAN RIVER ANDERSON 1999-2005 BEAR WITNESS DAY JOIN US FOR A WALK, RAFFLE, AND BBQ". At the bottom, it says "FRONT STREET FARMER'S MARKET SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026 12-2PM". There are logos for "Jordan's Principle" (a blue bear) and a circular logo with a fish and the text "HONORING HWOOTIN MAN NATA". A blue banner at the bottom contains the text: "QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE JORDAN'S PRINCIPAL SERVICE COORDINATOR @ (867) 993-4109".



***Dä'daq'?* What is he/she doing?  
*Äh'ä doghor!* He/she is playing outside!**

In April, The Education Team went up the Dempster to Cache Creek with the Grade 6 class. We were joined by Pete Nagano who talked with our group about survival, growing up on the land and Ranger related activities. Allie Winton attended on behalf of the Heritage department, and we had an amazing adventure exploring Black City and learning some history about the people who lived there. We snowshoed, walked, and had a great time while learning. On our return to town, we stopped and did the North Klondike trail along the river and out onto the glacier where these photos were taken.

## ***Coming up in May***

In May, our team will camp out at Tombstone Campground with the Grade 5 class, where we will learn about springtime activities. Chelsea and Kalilah have been offering “pop-up” after school activities, providing the kids with great crafting fun! In May we will also continue the after school Gwitchin Square Dancing club which is a great way to learn some new moves! In April, we had Elders, youth and Jëje-in join for a good time!



*Tröndek Hwëch'in*

# **Post-Secondary Scholarship**

Łqy Sranän  
(May) 15th



The Scholarship Award is for post-secondary students who have attended studies over the Winter 2026 semester. For applications and more information, students can contact Natalja Blanchard at [post.secondary.coordinator@trondek.ca](mailto:post.secondary.coordinator@trondek.ca)

## Employment & Training News:

### Career Mentorship Program – Drop in Info Session

Join Darwyn, Melissa and Becky to learn more about the Career Mentorship Program and how it supports TH Citizens with career exploration, goal-setting, and one-on-one mentorship. Come by anytime to learn what the Career Mentorship Program offers, find out who the program is for, ask questions and connect with jëje-in.

Date: Tuesday, May 12  
 Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
 Location: TH Hall

### Ready 2 Work 2026

This will be the second year of this skill development and employment readiness program for all youth ages 12-15. Stay tuned for more information and an application form. Sessions will begin the week of June 15.

(Photos from Ready 2 Work 2025)



### Intro to Carpentry Program Update

This 4-week program created and spearheaded by Wildstone Construction (with the support of Yukon University, Chief Isaac Group of Companies, and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in) wrapped up on Friday, April 24 with a celebratory barbecue for participants. Five Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizens completed the training and received certificates from Yukon University including one youth who completed the course to earn credit toward his high school diploma.



TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN

## summer student

JOBS PROGRAM



### June - August 2026

If you are a youth in grades 9 - 12 and are interested in:

- Natural Resources and land-based work
- Administration and office support
- Culture, language and heritage programs
- Maintenance, events and camps

Get Paid.  
 Learn Skills.  
 Support your  
 Community.

Apply by May 8, 2026 for full-time or part-time work.

Submit your application form, resume and cover letter in person, or by email to [employment.pathways.coordinator@trondek.ca](mailto:employment.pathways.coordinator@trondek.ca)

Need help filling out the application? Contact Becky at (867)993-3765

No prior work experience needed. We encourage all eligible Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and First Nation youth to apply.



**From the Archives:  
Celebrating Łay Srănan (Dog Month)**



*Pete Van Bibber playing with his dog  
2004.5.1037, Van Bibber Collection, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Archives*

May is known as Łay Srănan (Dog Month) because of all the puppies born this time of year!



## Revitalizing the dog blanket



This blanket was made by Sharon and Sheila Vittrekwa and Dolores Scheffen as part of the revitalization of dog team blankets.





## WOLVERINE BRINGS WINTER WEATHER

By Jody Beaumont

The last few cold and frosty nights made me think of a transcript I read a while back. The transcript is from a series of interviews conducted with Joe and Annie Henry, in 1990. I read this transcript quite a long time ago and was reminded of it last year when Percy was sharing Wolverine stories with me. Percy was talking about Wolverine's characteristics and powers, and, unbeknownst to Percy, he ended up solving a mystery for me.

In the interview from 1990, Joe was sharing a story about travelling in the Blackstone area in early spring. He speaks about a fellow who makes a wolverine out of snow and clubs it into the fire. At the time I originally read the story I didn't know what the heck was going on. I hadn't learned enough yet to understand what Joe was trying to share with us. Then, when Percy started explaining about Wolverine and sharing his stories it all started making sense.

Here's an excerpt from Joe's story about travelling in the early spring. (The interview was recorded in Gwich'in and translated into English by Percy):

*When they went back, Hart River bunch left their stuff at Blackstone, and Joe Henry himself left stuff there too. They went back to pick up their family. And he come from Tth'an Dhidlii and try to come back to Blackstone, and they said it was a very early spring. It suddenly turn hot. They said the snow melt so fast you could almost see it go down like you put snow on a campfire. That's how fast it's melting. They got to the Peel, and then they went back to get the other load, Joe Henry did. And he just got there, and he took his load across. He didn't stop for anything. He took his family across and the water came just like the ice ready to go out. That's how fast things happening. Way back in the flat there's water as deep as up to knee high. Some place dogs swimming. That's how hot it got. That's how fast the water came. In the meantime, Hart River bunch, there's a guy named John. He made wolverine out of snow. What the Indian used to do is make wolverine and they make fire in front of his nose. While he's doing that the water dripping down his nose. Then they club him into the fire. And when we got to the mouth of the Blackstone and the mountain, way up in the mouth of those mountain, once they camped there they crossed. They tell me no snow, so they just camped anywhere, and in the meantime this guy made that wolverine and it turned cold. It really turned cold. All the river was frozen. Back flat was all frozen. So when they took off, no problem. (Transcript #: 90 – 06 B)*

Last year, when Percy was sharing Wolverine stories he also talked about Wolverine's personality and his powers. It was a really nice "a-ha" moment when he shared the story about Wolverine and the Hunter. The longer version of the story is a great listen. The following is a short version from Percy:

So Wolverine asks Tsà' wèzhè to go hunt. Got late so they camp. They keep fire at night time. And they put lots of big wood in. And then they went to sleep. They take their clothes off to dry. They wet, all wet. They dry their pants. And Tsà' wèzhè he watch him. Pretty soon Wolverine fell asleep. So Tsà' wèzhè sneak up, he switch pants. Pretty soon Wolverine got up. He took Tsà' wèzhè's pants then throw it in the fire. Except they were really Wolverine's own pants because Tsà' wèzhè switched them. That's how Wolverine eat people. He trick them so they freeze. But Tsà' wèzhè tricked Wolverine instead.

*In the morning Wolverine realizes that he has no pants so he asks Tsà' wèzhè to build a fire for him so he doesn't freeze. Tsà' wèzhè goes to get wood but instead of getting wood he goes farther and farther away, leaving Wolverine to freeze.*

*So he told that Tsà' wèzhè bring lots of wood. So Tsà' wèzhè bring wood and he get farther away and farther away. Pretty soon he can hardly hear him. Tsà' wèzhè tells wolverine that he burned his pants because Wolverine killed men. So he stay there and freeze. Wolverine can make bad weather you know. He holler "raaahhhhh". Big north wind come. Everything froze. And so when they found him he was froze on his pee. He pee so much. Froze up real high. That's how they got rid of him. So that's what he do, eh. Everything froze.*

*Right now. I don't know if I could do it but I could make cold weather, eh. Because I could make wolverine out of snow. Then you build a fire. That story I told you about where he can't build fire and he froze. So I build fire and then you club him. He fall in the fire. Big north wind gonna come. Wolverine will help you by making it cold again so you can get home. So every story got something to it. (Transcript #: 12-13)*

The story of Wolverine and the Hunter, as well as the stories we have about Wolverine and the Traveller, illustrates his characteristics. Wolverine is a trickster who will get into your cache and destroy things. He can also bring winter weather.

As you can see from Joe's story this can be a good thing because you can bring colder temperatures when you need them, thanks to Wolverine. He also provides fur which will keep you very warm on the coldest days.

Printed from the Heritage Newsletter, April 2014





### Looking for a summer read?

Did you know that Däno Nts'ä Tr'ädäl (Heritage Department) has a library of around 2000 titles, covering literature, language, children's books, land claims, and more! If you're interested in a book we do not have, let us know and we will see if

we can get it in to add to our ever-growing library. You too can be as cool as our new Cultural Education Coordinator Jëje-in Tiffany Taylor, as she studies her Native American Ethnobotany.

If you have any questions or requests come visit our offices on the main floor of the Hähkè Steve Taylor Building, or email [collections.steward@trondek.ca](mailto:collections.steward@trondek.ca). Be sure to check in with Jëje-in to help you find what you need and sign out your books.

### Year in Review

Over the past year, the TH Whitehorse Office has focused on building connection, offering support, and creating welcoming spaces for Citizens.

Highlights included Summer Walk & Talks, Sewing Circles, Family Social, Family Programming with Ni'ehyat Nidähji (Our Families, Our Future) Team. monthly Elders Teas, Elders Council and special Council Zoom meetings, citizen engagements, Youth Night with K'äjít-In Zho Team (TH Youth Centre), and a Genealogy Chat. The office also supported important moments such as Truth & Reconciliation Day BBQ.

As the year unfolded, the team continued learning what supports work well and what supports don't, allowing programming and services to adapt. This has been a valuable learning and growth period for the entire team.

Looking ahead, we anticipate increased programming support, with a focus on cultural activities, workshops, and community-driven gatherings as the office continues to grow.

Zhä täwdèlit.  
The snow is melting.

Äh'ä t'ä hōzō.  
It is a really nice day.

## BEGINNER HÄN LANGUAGE CIRCLES

Mondays 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
in the Heritage Board Room

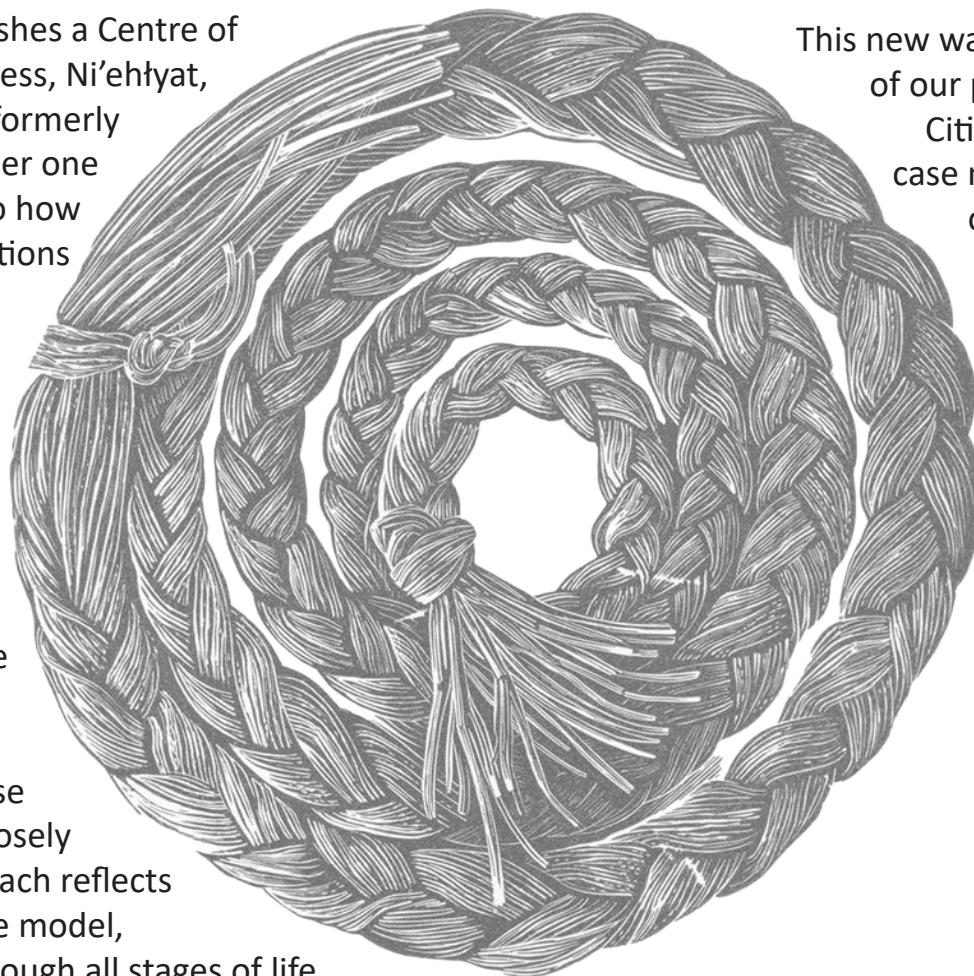
Have questions or concerns?  
Need access to Hän vocabulary sheets?  
Contact [mandi-may.bond@trondek.ca](mailto:mandi-may.bond@trondek.ca)



## A New Department on the Rise

The K'änächa Department establishes a Centre of Care model by braiding the Wellness, Ni'ehlyat, Nidähji', and Tr'ëhudè & Dä'òle' (formerly Justice) together as branches under one departmental umbrella (similar to how Governance and Executive Operations is structured).

The K'änächa Department was created in response to consistent feedback from Citizens asking that we work together more effectively to put Citizens at the centre of our work and avoid duplication of efforts. These three under one department allow us to share resources, coordinate service delivery, and employ a case management model that more closely aligns with our values. This approach reflects a life-course or continuum-of-care model, supporting Citizens from birth through all stages of life and into their next journey. Simply put, it is a step toward ensuring Citizens are at the center of our work and that our work is done in a Dënezhu way.



Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief and Council is excited to announce the creation of the Känächa Department.

This new way of operating does not change any of our policies regarding confidentiality for Citizens; coordination of services and a case management model will still require ongoing and informed consent from Citizens, and confidentiality will remain at the core of our work. Rather, this model ensures that Citizens are not required to explain their circumstances repeatedly to different departments, and that jëje-in can pool their skills and resources to support Citizens and families in a good way.

We look forward to sharing more updates about this transition in the coming weeks. Mähsj cho!

**Łëk'änähcha**  
We take care of each other

# Drum Bag Making Workshop

With Dolores Scheffen



At Jëje Zho  
 Friday, May 15 • 5:30 - 9:30 pm  
 Saturday, May 16 • 1:00 - 5:00 pm

*Dinner, snacks and beverages provided*

To register, contact [zoey.smith.jz@trondek.ca](mailto:zoey.smith.jz@trondek.ca) or call (867) 993-3697




# Red Dress Day

## May 5, 2026

In remembrance of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two spirit people

10:00 am	Sacred Fire outside of TH Hall
11:00 am	Vigil Walk Front St. to Bunkhouse, to Albert St. and back to TH Hall
12:00 pm	Lunch at TH Hall

A red handprint station will be outside by the sacred fire, come early to place a red handprint on the face.  
 For more information, please contact [community.outreach@trondek.ca](mailto:community.outreach@trondek.ca) or (867) 993-3639



"Where dad jokes meet deep thoughts"



JËJE ZHO (MEN'S HOUSE)

# Men's Group

Men's Group with Dez Rioux open to all community members who identify as men

## DATES TO BE DETERMINED

Keep an eye out on Facebook for our upcoming dates

Dinner and beverages included  
 Call for rides: 867-993-3697

Come hang out, recharge and laugh.



### Spring Clean-up

The Housing & Infrastructure Crew will be doing a big spring clean-up from May 11 - 22, 2026.

Need help moving debris and garbage from your yard?

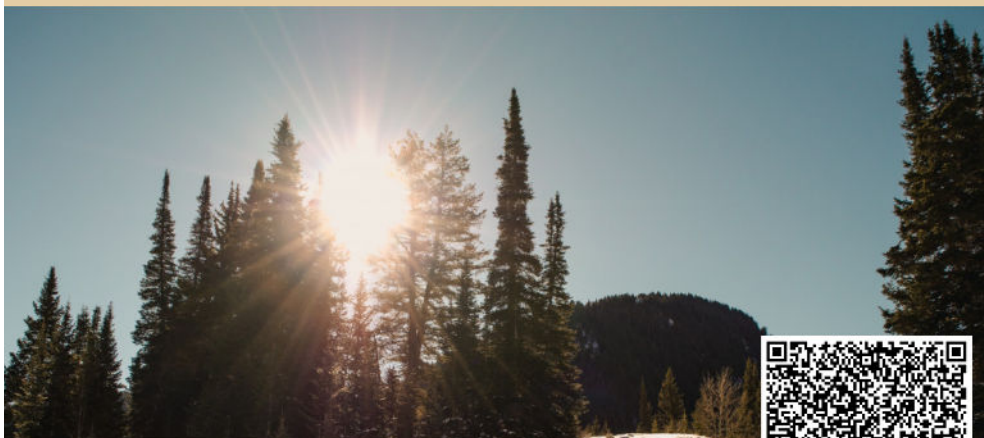
Put in a request with [workorder@trondek.ca](mailto:workorder@trondek.ca) or get in touch with the Tenant Relations Officer at [tenantrelations@trondek.ca](mailto:tenantrelations@trondek.ca)

# Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in General Assembly

At Nänkäk Ch'ëhòlay (Land of Plenty)



**Door prizes! Rides and meals provided!**



**Saturday, May 30-  
Sunday, May 31, 2026  
9:00am - 5:00pm**



Register to attend via Zoom

**Breakfast served at Nänkäk Ch'ëhòlay between 8:00 - 9:00 am**

A shuttle schedule for rides to and from Nänkäk Ch'ëhòlay will be posted closer to the date.

Cabin space at Nänkäk Ch'ëhòlay is limited. Book early to avoid disappointment. Call Jordan Ross at (867) 993-3778 to book.

Childcare will be available at Nänkäk Ch'ëhòlay.

For more information, contact [events@trondek.ca](mailto:events@trondek.ca)

To book childcare at Nänkäk Ch'ëhòlay call Tr'inke Zho at (867) 993-5907