

YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

As long as the sun shines, the river flows and the grass grows.



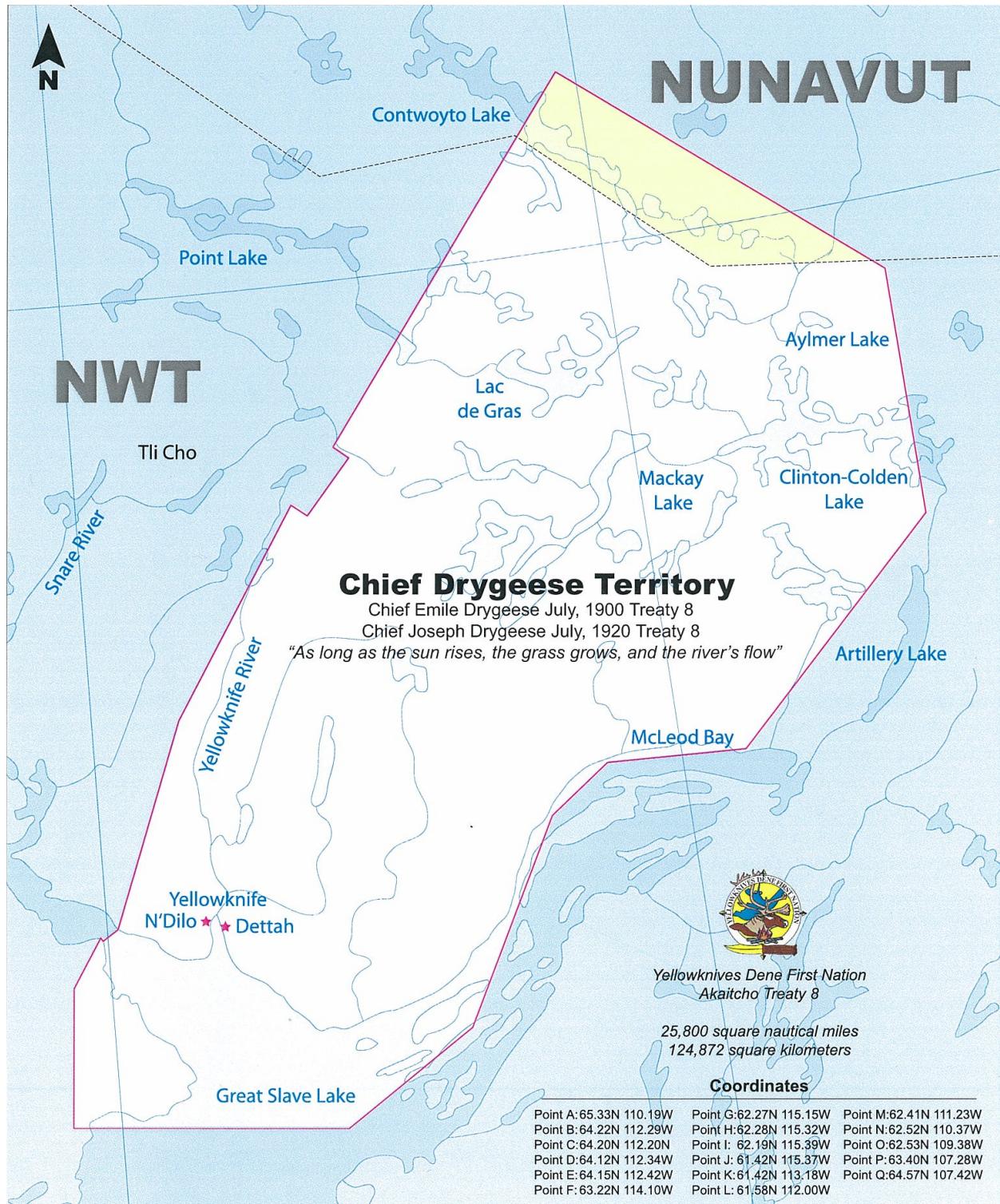


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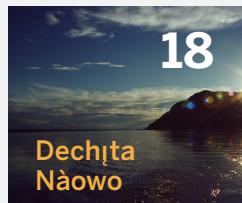
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Mission Statement

FIRST NATION MISSION

To assert our Wiiliideh Dene Rights, as long as the sun rises, the rivers flow, and the grass grows.

FIRST NATION VISION

Our vision is to be a Healthy and Sovereign Weledeh Dene Nation with Excellent Governance.



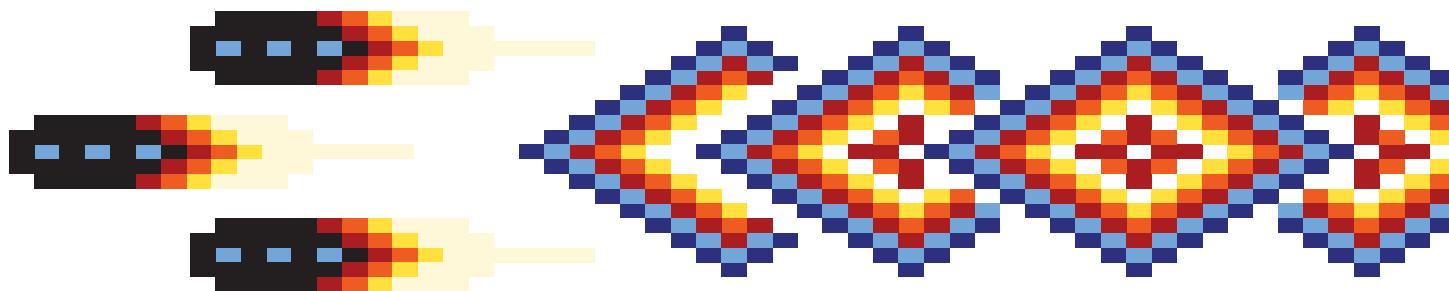
VALUE STATEMENTS

We the YKDFN Chiefs and Council are guided by the following values:

- Wiiliideh Culture – we practice and promote our traditions, culture, language and spirituality
- Integrity – we are caring, respectful and honorable to all people
- Well-being – we live a healthy, balanced life that relies on nature
- Accountability – we are accountable and transparent to our people

FIRST NATION SUMMARY

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) is part of the Akaitcho Territory Government. It is one of five main Dene groups that live in the NWT and is governed by a Chief and Council which has offices in Dettah and Ndilo. Overall, the YKDFN Chiefs and Council affirm our sacred obligation to serve our people and our commitment to live balanced contemporary lifestyles with culture and traditions important to our community, to speak our traditional language, and protect our natural resources and treaty rights. For Chiefs and Council to lead the YKDFN to a prosperous future requires the support of our members. We will work cooperatively and in partnership with all members, YKDFN administration and legal entities to achieve our proposed outcomes to improve the well-being of all our members.



Dene Laws

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE

Share all the big games you kill; only take what you need and share with others who do not have any.

HELP EACH OTHER

Help the poor, sick and Elders, who are in need, visit them; give them food, cook, for them. Help them get firewood or whatever needs to be done around the house. When you lose someone in death, go to the family right away, help out the widow as much as possible and help take care of the orphaned children.

LOVE EACH OTHER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

Treat each other as brother and sisters as though you are related. Help each other and don't harm anyone.

BE RESPECTFUL OF ELDERS AND EVERYTHING AROUND YOU

Don't run around when Elders are eating; sit down until they are finished.

SLEEP AT NIGHT AND WORK DURING THE DAY

Don't run around or laugh loudly when it gets dark. Everyone should sleep when darkness falls.

BE POLITE AND DON'T ARGUE WITH ANYONE

Don't harm anyone with your voice or actions. Don't hurt anyone with your power. Don't show your anger.

YOUNG GIRLS AND BOYS SHOULD BEHAVE RESPECTFULLY

Don't make fun of each other, especially in the matter of sex. Don't make fun of older men and women. BE polite to each other.

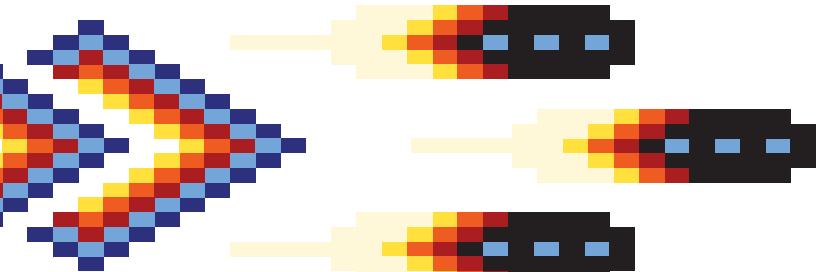
PASS ON THE TEACHINGS

Elders are to tell stories about the past every day. In this way, young people learn to distinguish between good and unacceptable behaviours and when they are older, they will become the storytellers someday, who will then someday keep the circle of life going.

BE HAPPY AT ALL TIMES

The Creator have given you a great gift—Mother earth, take care of her and she will always give you food and shelter.

“ Prepare the children for a good life by teaching them in this way— It is your responsibility. ”



MESSAGE FROM THE YKDFN Chief(s)

Chief Edward Sangris and Chief Ernest Betsina



Chief Edward Sangris



Chief Ernest Betsina

Looking back, 2019-2020 was filled with challenges and opportunities. The Administration staff have been working together to address these challenges and build off the opportunities. This past year has made considerable progress with each department: Each staff is truly dedicated and hardworking with the programs and services that we offer.

Governance – The Governance Department was created to begin working to review and comment on the Draft Akaitcho Agreement in Principle (AIP), the department will play a key role in developing our constitution, policies, and laws for the First Nation, the department also assists the legal counsel for the AIP.

Environment and Lands Department – The Environment and Lands Department were separated. The Lands and Resources Department began working on Chief Drygeese Territory Land Use Plan and the Ndilo and Dettah Community Plans for housing, recreation, infrastructure, and future economic development. The Environment Department completed our review with the Federal Government for Thaidene Nene Final Agreement which allows us to secure \$1.7 M in funding to develop and implement a plan as part of Park and Route Management over the next 3 years.

Municipal Works – The Municipal Works Department is working on planning and feasibility studies for the future YKDFN Cultural Centre, an underwater water line to Dettah from the City of Yellowknife water treatment facility, connected Water & Sewage for Ndilo and Dettah, improvement of docks in both communities, improvement of ballfield in Dettah, design & planning of an arbor at Williideh Site, the procurement of a new larger YKDFN shuttle bus and currently working with the City of Yellowknife on Fire-Smarting for Ndilo & Dettah. The department recently also provided additional water & sewage in response to COVID-19

Community Wellness – The Wellness Department assisted COVID-19 support for low-income families such as hampers, wood, counselling, family kits, provided PPE, COVID health kits, food hampers and continue to address addiction and mental health support within our communities. The department lobbied the GNWT to provide mental health counsellor for each community and secured a medical practitioner, this support is expected to be in place September 2020. The department worked with RCMP in crime prevention programs and building a strong relationship.

Dechita Naowo – The department continues to invest in education and training for our youth and adults. It continues to support High School and Youth students to explore college and universities in Alberta and BC and to provide additional tutoring on top of environmental monitoring, Heavy Equipment Operator training, construction basics and research skills development. In response to COVID-19 the department provided fish to Elders, manufactured COVID-19 masks for the community and supported the COVID-19 On the Land Program.

Aboriginal Head Start and Daycare – YKDFN established its very first the Lil' Williideh Champions Daycare, and the program is currently establishing tutor program for primary school students.

Giant Mine – The YKDFN continue to lobby the Federal Government for Giant Mine Community Participation Agreement, which includes a negotiation contract for Det'on Cho Corporation, the settlement of outstanding Giant Mine compensation, apology and funding for capacity training and development.

Economic Department – The Artisan Shop opened, and we began to work on the YKDFN Economic Strategic Plan and continue to work with City of Yellowknife on Joint Economic Strategic Plan.

Additional Projects – The YKDFN have established a relationship with Cheetah Resources and secured a contract for Det'on Cho Nahanni Construction. Defended YKDFN interests in the Slave Geological Province Corridor. We continue to fight for Economic Indigenous Reconciliation and invest in Education & Employment for membership by continuing to seek scholarships, education and employment opportunities working with all levels of government and corporate partners. We also continue to lobby the Federal Government for an increase in band support funding and multi-year funding, and additional funding of our YKDFN Housing Strategy. We also continue to clean up the communities by the removal abandon cars and refuse, so that we can beautify and take pride in our communities. We also jointly organized Hockey Day in Canada in February with the City of Yellowknife which had amazing media coverage of the event.

Negotiations – We continue promote interests for YKDFN such as bringing forward the following chapters in the current Draft Akaitcho Agreement-In-Principle Governance including:

- Governance
- Compensation based on membership population
- Land quantum based on membership population
- chapters to be brought forward as part of Akaitcho.

Our governance will be engaging with membership in the Fall to make them aware and review the Draft AIP and accompanying the Chapters.

MESSAGE FROM THE Chief Executive Officer

Jason Snaggs, CEO, Yellowknives Dene First Nation



Jason Snaggs, CEO, YKDFN

I pray that all YKDFN members remain vigilante and take all precautions to remain safe from COVID-19.

2019-2020 was a year where YKDFN Staff started to work in earnest to begin the implementation of the 2019 – 2024 YKDFN Strategic Goals and Objectives by planning and investing on a solid foundation for the future of the First Nation.

Some of the highlights included:

1. GOVERNANCE

- "Act like a government"/ put our authority onto practice. The Rights, Treaty and Governance Department was established led by Johanne Black to begin work on the Draft AIP Review and Public Consultation slated to start in September 2020, the YKDFN Constitution and Body of law to prepare for future governance.

2. INVEST IN PEOPLE

- Dechita Naowo continued to enhance its education, training and skills building program to prepare, high schoolers, youth and adults for higher education, and the current and future job markets.
- The Economic Development department embarked on financial literacy and business planning training for members, working on YKDFN's economic strategy and the Joint Economic Strategy between the City of Yellowknife and the First Nation.
- Community Wellness continues to focus on mental health and substance abuse support, in doing so continued to lobby the GNWT for 2 mental health support workers for Dettah and Ndilo and the return of the nurse practitioner to support both communities. The 3 resources are to start in September 2020 to support the communities. In addition a link to Ontario's Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) was established to explore additional resources and support. YKDFN also completed the 1st round of community consultations for the YKDFN Strategy which will continue despite of COVID-19.
- The opening of Lil' Wiliiideh Champions Daycare now allows working mums to enter into the job market and to participate in the economy.

3. TELL OUR STORY

- The Economic Development department along with Public Works began the YKDFN Cultural Center Planning Study which is to be located in Dettah.
- The Culture and language Department remains in it's infancy, however, a working group is to be established by September 2020 which will work to preserve, enrich and to maintain the language and cultural traditions of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

Infrastructure projects are also in the planning phase for housing, a water line to Dettah from the City of Yellowknife water treatment centre, clean up and beautification of the communities, revitalisation of Ndilo and Dettah Docks and community planning, connected water and sewage, and road and drainage improvements for Dettah and Ndilo. Our goal with all these projects is build a better community, enrich lives and prepare for the future growth and prosperity of the YKDFN, while creating job opportunities and economic benefits for YKDFN.

Community Engagement and Planning takes time, however, once done properly we will be in a better position to execute once funding is available.

I encourage all YKDFN members to remain active and to participate in as many of the community engagements as possible, to provide us with your creative ideas and input which will become the mandate to Chiefs, Council and staff for which we must be held accountable. Also please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason at jasons@ykdene.com or via my phone **867 873 4307 ext. 2002**. I remain at your service.



YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION Chiefs and Councilors

YKDFN CHIEFS



Chief Edward Sangris

Chief Ernest Betsina

YKDFN COUNCILLORS



DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Wellness Division

The YKDFN Wellness Department provides efficient, holistic Wellness programs and services to empower members to make healthy positive choices and opportunities as long as the sun rises, river flows and grass grows.



2019/20 YKDFN WELLNESS STAFF:

- Jennifer Drygeese, Wellness Director
- Karen Martin, Program Support
- Melissa Sangris, Family Wellness
- Cyndi Caisse, Dene Wellness/Justice
- Cindy Wells, Counsellor
- Theresa Lynn, Recreation Coordinator

Wellness had a very successful fiscal year with a wide range of programs and services. At the end of our fiscal year our Wellness team was able to transition very quickly and efficiently from delivering programs/services to providing support to our members during the COVID-19 pandemic with offering well needed supports/services. I would like to thank all our Wellness staff and contributors for all their hard work and support during this time. Mahsi Cho

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation engages families, Elders, individual, youth and children in fun, active, healthy traditional and cultural activities that develop positive, lifelong habits and attitudes.

2019/20 Accomplishments:

- 2019 Spring Carnival (Apr 5-7/19)
- Community Easter Party (Apr 14/19)
- Cultural Week at Wiiliideh River (Jun 17-20/19)
- Aboriginal Day Celebration (Jun 21/19)
- Canada Day Float (July 1/19)
- Dettah cemetery clean up (Aug 1/19)
- Halloween Parties (Oct 26/19)
- Community Christmas Program
 - Community Christmas Party
 - Boxing Day Handgames Tournament
 - Christmas Light Competition
- New Years Eve Sober Dance
- Volunteer Appreciation Event
- Afterschool Program
- Gym Program
- Handgames Practices
- Summer Students
- Summer Program
 - Children Day Camp
 - Mural Painting
 - Mackenzie Summer Games
 - Hosted MYSG Dene Games
- Hockey Night in Dettah and Yellowknife (Feb/20)
- On the Land Culture Camp (Mar 15-19/20)



JUSTICE PROGRAM

Justice provides services to members who are involved with courts/law and also to promote crime prevention.

2019/20 Accomplishments:

- Court Support
- Restorative Justice Option
- Community Hours
- Community Legal Clinics
- Youth Programming
- Book Club
- Soap Making Sessions
- Girls Group
- Youth hikes
- Last Will and Estates Support for Elders



DENE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Dene Wellness provides services to assist community members in addressing addictions and healing the symptoms of unresolved trauma in a holistic manner.

2019/20 Accomplishments

- Counselling
- Ndilo/Dettah Sunday Brunches
- Sewing Sharing Nights
- On the Land Healing Camps
 - July 12-14/19
 - September 14-15/19
 - February 27-Mar 1/20
 - March 12-16/20
- Hosted MMIWG Ceremonial gathering in June 15-16/19
- Grief/Loss and Soul Recovery Workshop w/Pat and Betty Bernard—Nov 3-11/19
- NAAW/Family Violence Awareness Month Activities (November 2019)
- One on one with Pat and Betty (March 2-7/20)
- Social Ed Group
- Elders Support Group
- Community Crisis Support
- Treatment Referrals
- Family Healing Sessions
- Family Violence Prevention Awareness Week





FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM

Family Wellness provides knowledge and awareness in health, education and community living.

2019/20 Accomplishments

- Mama Bebia Sessions
- Mama Bebia Sewing group with Elder
- Provide baby bags to participants and parents at Vital Abel Home
- Bringing Tradition Home workshops
- Community Support
- Mothers and Fathers Day BBQ
- Sakaii Program
- Beautiful Babies Celebration
- Healthy Living
Noon hour workouts
Walking group
Cooking Sessions
- Dettah Walk In Clinic
- Family Nights
- Indoor Garage Sales
- Christmas Craft Sales
- Elders Fuel Subsidy
- Elders Meals on Wheels/Luncheons
- Elders Program

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Environment Department

INTRODUCTION:

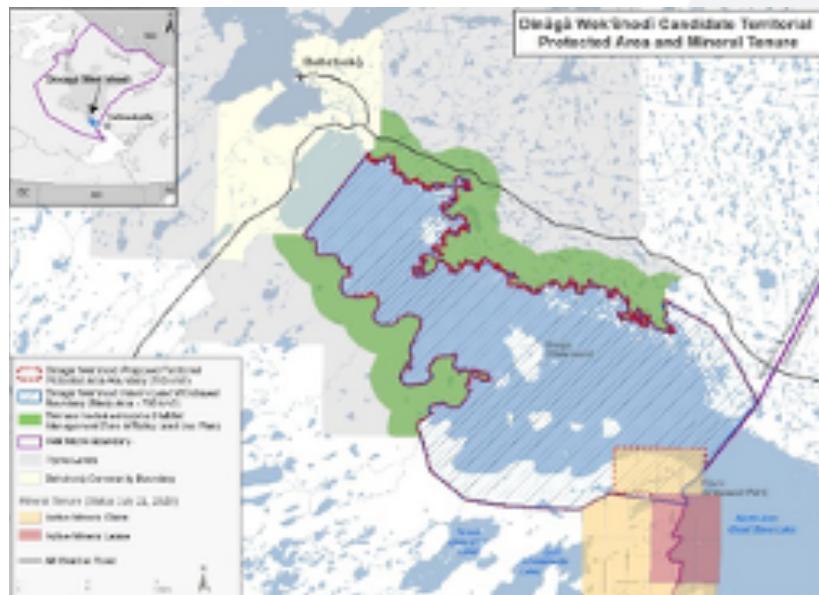
The Environment

Department was one of the new departments created from the reorganization and was tasked with the responsibility to manage and protect the non-renewable, renewable, and cultural resources in Chief Drygeese Territory.

CONSERVATION NETWORK PLANNING INITIATIVES:

DINÀGÀ WEK'ÈHODÌ CANDIDATE PROTECTED AREA

Environment staff have had ongoing participating on the Dìnàgà Wek'èhodì Working Group taking a collaborative approach to park planning and using *Healthy Country Planning*. In June 2019 GNWT and YKDFN hosted a community meeting in Dettah for membership to learn about Dìnàgà Wek'èhodì, ask questions about the process, and contribute information about the area.



Map of proposed Candidate Area Dìnàgà Wek'èhodì

PHOTO CREDIT: GNWT ENR

THAIDENE NËNÉ NATIONAL PARK RESERVE, THAIDENE NENE TERRITORIAL PROTECTED AREA, AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA

Thaidene Nënë was established in August 2019 and is located at the eastern End of the east arm of Great Slave Lake.

While YKDFN supports the establishment of the National Park Reserve, we take issue with the Territorial Protected Area which encroaches onto Chief Drygeese Territory. Since establishment, the

Environment Department has been working closely with the Treaty, Rights and Governance Department to address and manage YKDFN interest in the North Shore of McLeod Bay.

Over the summer of 2019 Environment staff completed a boat routing program to highlight culturally sensitive areas found along the east arm of Great Slave Lake.

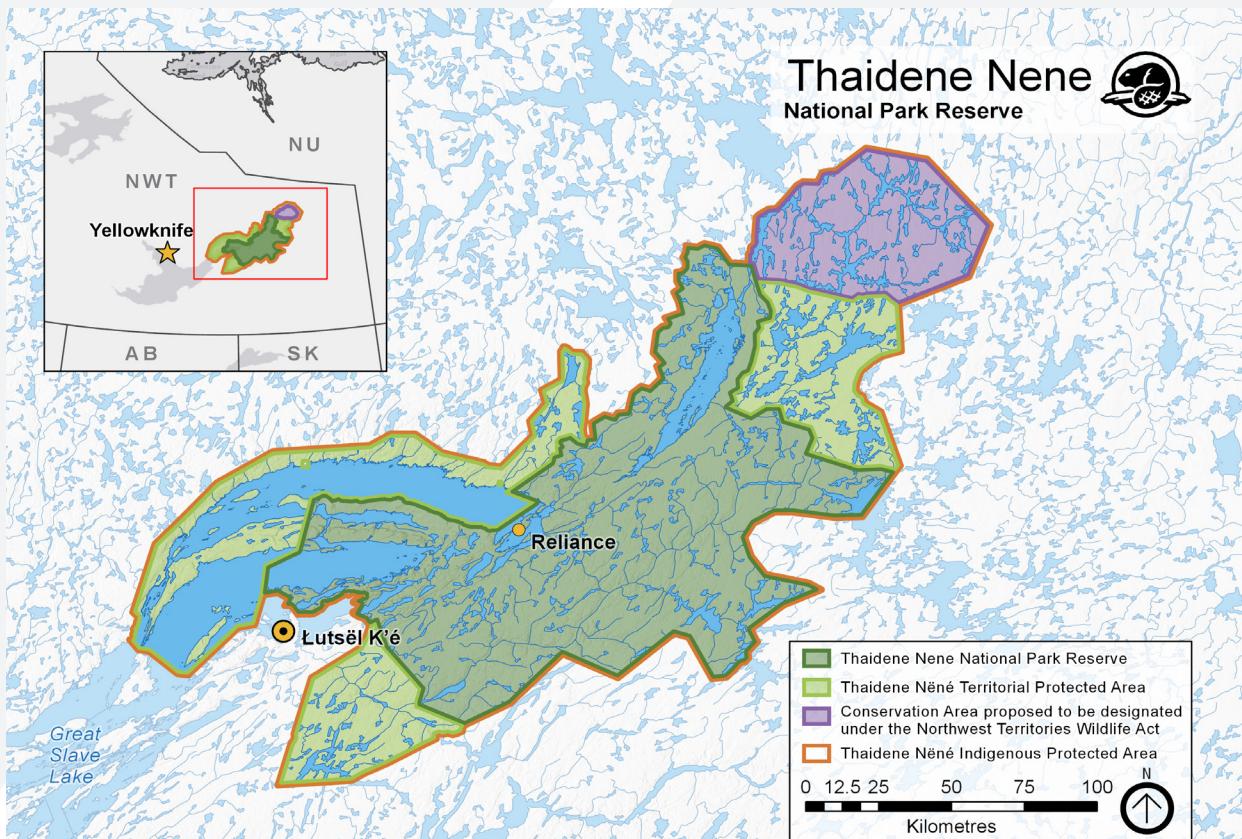




Photo from public hearing in Kugluktuk.

PHOTO CREDIT: SARAH GILLIS

WILDLIFE AND FISH INITIATIVES:

AKAITCHO AQUATIC MONITORING PROGRAM (AAMP)

The Akaitcho Aquatic Monitoring Program (AAMP) is a regional program run under the Akaitcho Territory Government. Each year, AAMP applies on behalf of each Akaitcho First Nation to fund various aquatics related programs. Data is collected on a wide variety of parameters surrounding fish, water, and soil. Further, this program provides training and employment to YKDFN members as Technicians and Boat Operators who conduct the sampling under the guidance of Department of Fisheries and Oceans' scientists.

YELLOKNIVES DENE CUMULATIVE IMPACT AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The main purpose of the project is to develop a cumulative impact and monitoring framework for YKDFN. The core of the year's work was focused on the development of a harvest and resource use survey. A draft survey was presented at a community meeting and edited based on input. The survey is now ready for deployment.

GUARDIANS PROGRAM

This year's focus was on the development of a monitoring framework and protocols based on traditional knowledge. A draft set of values and indicators as well as a draft monitoring framework was completed and is ready for community verification.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The Environment Department is responsible for coordinating YKDFN's participation in wildlife management initiatives. Environment staff participate in meetings, working groups, public hearings, and conferences associated with wildlife management and the protection of species at risk. Staff also review and provide input into technical documents such as range plans and review research license applications, outfitter application, and other applications associated with wildlife in Chief Drygeese Territory.

REGULATORY INITIATIVES:

AKAITCHO REMEDIATION

The Akaitcho Remediation Project coordinates YKDFN's participation on the Tundra Monitoring Project, the Gordon Remediation Project, and the Bullmoose-Ruth Remediation Project. These projects are either in the Adaptive Management phase or the Long-Term Monitoring Phase of the remediation of these mines.

DIAVIK PROCESSED KIMBERLITE TO MINE UNDERGROUND WORKINGS PROJECT

Diavik submitted an amendment to its current water license that would enable the mine operators to place processed kimberlite sludge (fine processed kimberlite and extra fine processed kimberlite) into underground mine workings. YKDFN was an intervener in the proceedings lobbying on behalf of the community to ensure that YKDFN interests are protected and concerns addressed.



GIANT MINE

The Environment Department coordinates multiple files and activities that are related to the Giant Mine Remediation Project. The following is an overview of the work that YKDFN participates in:

- Health Effects Monitoring Program (YKHEMP)
- Hoëla Weteëst'eëdeë: Understanding Community Wellbeing Around Giant Mine Study Program
- Giant Mine Advisory Committee (GMAC)

Giant Mine closure and remediation plan public hearings

For information on the apology and compensation for the legacy of Giant Mine please contact Treaty, Rights, and Governance Department.

NDILO SOIL SAMPLING

The Ndilo Community Engagement and Soil Sampling Project provides all Ndilo residents with the opportunity to have a sample of soil from their yard analyzed for its arsenic concentration. If you are interested in having a soil sample taken at your house or would like more information, please call or email the Project Team at ndiloengagement@hemmera.com or 867.988.1409.

YKDFN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE STUDY FOR SEABRIDGE GOLD'S COURAGEOUS LAKE PROJECT

This year a traditional knowledge study was undertaken to establish a baseline understanding of YKDFN traditional land use, practices, and knowledge relating to the Courageous Lake area.

Boards Participation

The Environment Department is also responsible for managing YKDFN's participation on the different monitoring bodies for existing mines.

- **Gahcho Kue Mine** - Ni Hadi Xa
- **Diavik Diamond Mine** - Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB)
- **Ekati Diamond Mine** - Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA)
- **De Beers Mining Canada** - Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (SLEMA)
- **Giant Mine** - Giant Mine Oversight Board (GMOB)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Dech̄ita Nàowo

2019-2020 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

This year Dech̄ita Nàowo continued with adult training and helping to prepare youth for college and university while strengthening cultural skills and identity.



EMPLOYMENT READINESS

- Job searches, resume and cover letters, mock interviews
- Assisting with employment matching for employers and members
- Employability skill development

CONSTRUCTION BASICS TRAINING

- Finished Dech̄ita Nàowo Training Centre in Dettah; built a woodshed
- Built 4 tent frames and began construction of cabin at Pickerel Lake
- Plumbing and Electrical Basics certificates
- Brush cutting at Wiiliideh site for cultural week and around Dettah graveyard
- Studied for the pre-trades exams; math, English and science
- Safety on the worksite and power tools course; Industrial safety courses
- Fall Arrest, Scaffolding, Wilderness First Aid, Chainsaw level 1, 2 & 3 courses

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING /REMEDIATION

- Delivered 3 BEAHR Environmental Monitoring Courses: 1) Core, 2) Contaminated Site Remediation and 3) Environmental Site Assessment Assistant
- Introduction to the environmental sector, technical skills, environmental site assessments; hazard assessments; sampling, testing and site clean-up techniques
- Health and safety plans, spill response plans; Interpretation and evaluation of field data; Background on legislation and regulatory agencies
- Students earned safety certificates: Wilderness First Aid; Pleasure Craft Operation; Predator Defense & Shot Gun Handling; Canadian Fire-Arms Safety; Spill Response Level I & II; WHMIS, Transportation of Dangerous Goods; Asbestos Hazard and H2S Awareness

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATION

- Excavator, Skid Steer, Loader, Hands on-training
- Controls and gauge functions, basics boom and stick movements
- Pad preparation, digging techniques, building ramps, changing buckets
- Sorting rock, feeding the jaw crusher and handling blast mats, proper tramping, laying out drill pattern, changing steel and bit, handling material with forks, spreading gravel and sand
- Changing attachments, placing material with slings and chains

INTRODUCTION TO THE MINING INDUSTRY

- This 4-week course was run twice; Students received credit from Aurora College
- Mining and career opportunities, geology and orebodies, mining methods, mineral processing, caring for the environment, mine facilities and equipment, and basic mine safety
- In a partnership with De Beers 2 students received training positions at Gahcho Kue mine

TRADITIONAL ARTS

- How to make a small Dene style purse;
- How to use heavy duty sewing machines
- Dene beading and embroidery;
- Dene fish scale art; Making uppers for moccasins

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR BASICS

- Basic small engine repair theory; Basic hands on repair to a snowmobile

TRADITIONAL ECONOMIES

- 2 spring culture camps; summer culture camp; fall camp; teen trapping
- Preparing caribou and moose hides; setting nets, making dry fish; survival skills
- Safety radios. Maps, GPS tracking devices and Inreach, satellite phones
- Reading animal tracks and identifying animals and fish; gun safety course
- Co-delivered the 11th Annual Fall Harvest Fair

RESEARCH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Elders and Youth Research Protocols Group; Akaitcho and Franklin project
- Youth Research Skills workshops in Ndilo and Dettah; History research project
- 2 on the land research camps; survival basics and leading research; canoe trips
- Elders workshop on youth leadership roles, and important skills to pass on
- Elders and Youth workshop – teachings of traditional knowledge and skills.

POST-SECONDARY PREPARATION

- Delivered a pilot project post-secondary preparation curriculum
- Study café in both communities of Dettah and Ndilo
- Education excursion fund raising; 10 students toured UBC, UFV, NVIT, UBCO and TRU in BC
- Forum theatre training; radio broadcasting training
- co-coordinated YKDFN Career Fair; 2019 YKDFN Graduation Celebration at Wiiliideh Site

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Dechita Naowo delivered the following services:

- set nets and delivered fish to the Elders, processed On-the-land applications; assisted members with EI and CERB applications
- delivered Educational packages to members; set up an internet site to assist high school students; delivered computers to homes through a partnership with Computers for Schools

DID YOU KNOW THAT DECHITA NÀOWO ...?

- helps with resumes, job searching and finding employment
- provides training and helps with apprenticeship matching
- teaches youth how to trap and set nets
- can help you to prepare for college or university

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

YKDFN Early Learning and Childcare Education Annual Report 2020



OUR PROGRAMS

- Lil' Wiiliideh Champion Daycare
- Lil' Wiiliideh Champion Afterschool Care
- Aboriginal Head Start Program Age 4
- Aboriginal Head Start Program Age 3
- Lil' Wiiliideh Champion Daycare

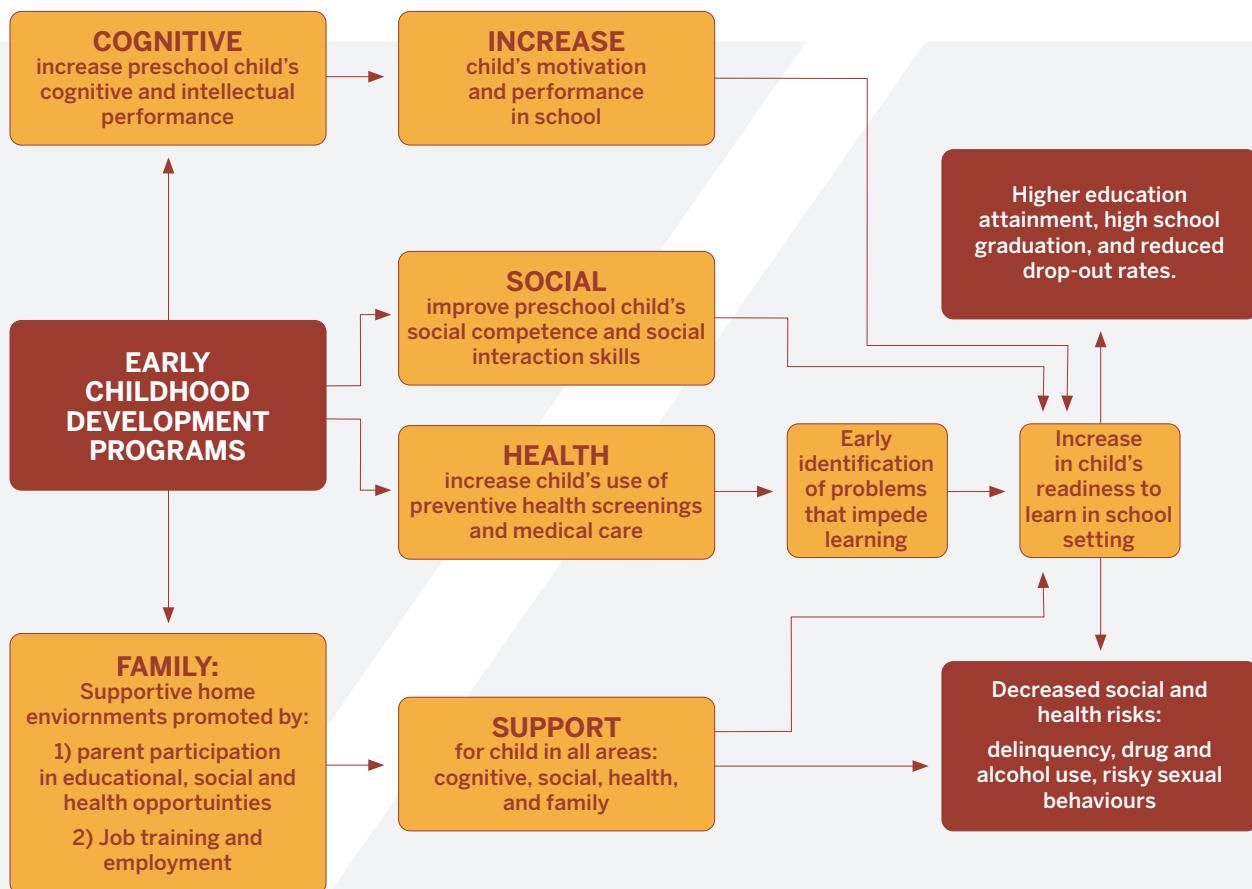
Our Day Care Center has been a leader in providing children a safe, nurturing day care environment combined with a top-quality early education program in Ndilo. Day Care Center has been a reliable, stable, and caring environment for children in our community since 2020 January. Our caring and dedicated staff members maintain excellent communication and relationships with our parents. When a need occurs, our staff supports parents by providing helpful information and referrals to other community services that can help.

The Center's mission is providing a quality early childhood education program that helps children to develop emotionally, socially, mentally, and physically in a safe and nurturing environment. The Center offers subsidized affordable childcare to all parents, especially those with the greatest financial need.

The Center opened its doors in 2020 with 3 children, Program Manager and an ECE teacher and a support worker. As more and more families and government social worker organizations learned about the Center and word spread through the community about the quality care and education it provided. To accommodate the increased number of children, in 2020, we hired three more childcare workers. In 2020, total enrollment of 15 children 4 full-time teachers, 2 part-time staff. Today, A year later, Day Care Center is flourishing and continuing to grow!

With such an outstanding reputation in the community, I am pleased to say the Center is at a high enrollment throughout the 2020 year.

- 2020 total enrollment of 15 children
- 03 full-time teachers
- 02 part-time staff
- 01 administrative staff
- 03 beautiful, child centered classrooms
- Toddler playground
- Fully equipped kitchen



In 2020, we believed, Safe and happy children smile more, learn more, and play harder. We kept the beautiful smiles on our children's faces as we provided them a wonderful, nurturing place away from home!

ABORIGINAL HEAD START AGE 3 AND 4 PROGRAM

Our AHS program is funded by the federal government and is available free of charge to low-income families who have 3- to 5-year-old children. Aboriginal Head Start classrooms program uses the High/Scope Curriculum. The curriculum is based on active learning. High Scope Preschool Curriculum is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum carefully designed to provide a rich academic foundation and foster child creativity, confidence, and independence.

In 2020, Our Aboriginal Head Start program focused on help enhance child development and school readiness for children living in our community. Head Start staff, management, cultural teachers offered

every child love, acceptance, understanding, and the opportunity to learn and to experience success. Our children had an opportunity to socialize with others, solve problems, and have other experiences which help them become self-confident. The children also improved their listening and speaking skills.

In 2020, Head Start teachers' main duties were organized and supervised classrooms and planned educational lessons, delivered them to their students. Head Start teachers prepared their students for elementary school and part of it, we worked hard to deliver High Scope Preschool Curriculum designed to provide a rich academic foundation and foster child creativity, confidence, and independence.

Our curriculum was Play-based, child-centered, and grounded in research. In a High Scope classroom, children were guided to explore, interact, and exercise their creative imagination through purposeful play. Through out 2020 year, we emphasize the individual needs of each child and celebrates the unique ethnic

and cultural characteristics of all including Services for children with special needs.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CULTURE AND LANGUAGE TEACHERS AT AHS:

We have explored the different styles of clothing and accessories made by indigenous communities across Canada, followed by a discussion about individual items. These clothing styles are then incorporated into our play by setting the scene for one of the cultures. i.e., The Inuit culture uses Parkas during the winter, so when the children were given a winter environment, they pretended to use parkas. In conjunction with the indigenous clothing, we have also gotten to see many types of beadwork, accessories, and art designs from many different tribes. They have had the chance to see and feel beaded earrings, moccasins, and mittens. These activities inspired the students enough to make their own necklaces, bracelets, and dreamcatchers.

The children are in the process of learning to respect animals and what uses they have in our lives, so we provide the students with many opportunities to ask questions about any animals. To maintain interest in the northern animals, we tell many legends and stories about individual animals in our immediate surroundings, and animals that are further up north. They love to hear stories that are silly, magical, and adventurous. One of the class favourites so far is the creation story, which can be found in the Dene kede resource book. We usually tell the story ourselves, with the teachers putting on a bit of a play where there is a lot of dancing, singing, and theatrics involved. Students are free to get up and follow along and are given the opportunity to make up their own stories or add to the ones we tell.

Every morning we sit with the kids and say our morning prayer in both Wiilideh, and English, so that the children can understand the connection between the language and what we are praying for. One part of the curriculum that is taking a little while to grasp is the spiritual aspect of indigenous culture. Their understanding is that everything has importance, and a role to play in our lives, although they do not always understand what

that role is, they are eager to hear about anything that involves life, such as plants, animals, people, medicine powers etc. Orature is a big part of indigenous culture, it is the best way for everybody to get involved and understand the many ideas and stories portrayed. There is also a lot of fun with the several styles of song and dance we showcase. Children are encouraged to copy the movements of the dance or the instruments.

2020, children were given more opportunities to explore cultural food, different experiences inside the kitchen, and art making. In 2020, Elders participated in our program to show us how to filet a fish and make fish chowder, the following day she returned and showed us how to dye the fish scales and make art. We once got to learn two different ways of making both fried and baked bannock, students were then able to spread butter or jam on the fresh bread. Duck plucking was a class favorite though, the students were a little frightened at first, but then came around and did most of the plucking themselves. Followed by a nice bowl of duck soup. One of the elders we had come for a visit, was the grandfather of one of our students, he displayed how he prepares caribou meat for both dry meat and caribou stew.

One of the challenges faced this year had to do with not being able to use any of the fabric materials, which was stored away due to COVID-19. Another complication we faced due to COVID-19 was inconsistent attendance, every time a student showed signs of sickness they were asked to stay home for a week. There was a need to have more elders come in to do demonstrations, language activities, and art projects. We had difficulty finding elders that were willing to come in with the pandemic happening, also people have jobs or other responsibilities to tend to during school hours.

- 2020 total enrollment of 16 children
- 02 full-time teachers
- 02 beautiful, child centered classrooms
- School playground
- Fully equipped kitchen

LIL' WIILIIDEH CHAMPION AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM

Lil' Wiiliideh Champions After School program opened its doors in 2020 with 16 children and two teachers. Our After School Care is a licensed non-profit childcare facility located in the building of Aura Collage. Program provides care for school-aged children from kindergarten to grade 6. After a long day of school, children can enjoy many activities found in our classrooms and have easy access to outdoor school playground.

Our Afterschool program provided structured, supervised programming outside of school hours for children and teens, providing "academic support, mentoring, youth development, arts and sports and recreation."

IN 2020, Our care options for before and after school care are flexible and based on the needs of the families in our community. We offered open ended play options for children support their developmental needs. We carefully planed our time to offer literacy and numeracy activities to supplement the Kindergarten curriculum for young children. We also offered circle time; story time and social stories enhance child's social and emotional skill development.

After children arrived, children were provided a healthy after school snack so that they are fueled for fun and

activities. We offered a variety of outdoor options and spend at least 15/20 minutes outdoor so that the children can enjoy fresh air and exercise. We also enjoyed access to the Gym on some days. Indoors the classrooms have set up with various Centres to suit each child: Arts & Crafts, Building, Cozy Corner, Dramatic Play, and a Homework Zone. Also, our Children had an opportunity to explore cooking experience in our kitchen such as baking, making smoothies and soup.

Children were offered choices of play in the learning centres (science/sensory, creative arts, books, and a dramatic centre) as well as an academically oriented curriculum. Our weekly program plans, implemented activities that encourage children to develop writing, reading, and math skills, such as writing sentences and paragraphs and performing basic arithmetic functions, all to advance their elementary/ school grade performance. Children will also had an opportunity to learn using educational games.

Program had a significant physical exercise component. Children accessed the outdoor playground where they can participate in various outdoor games. Weather permitting, outdoor activities scheduled once a day.

According to age group, we offered a program called "Group Reading". The intent was to strengthen their reading and writing capabilities.



DEPARTMENT REPORTS

YKDFN Housing Division

Yellowknives Housing Division is aimed to provide affordable Housing to YKDFN Membership; this Program is funded by the NWT Housing Corporation and is geared towards low-income families.

YKDFN HOUSING DIVISION STAFF:

- Agatha Laboucan – Housing Manager
- Rose Black – Tenant Relation Officer
- Nora Sangris – Administrative Assistant
- John McMormik – Oil Burner Mechanic
- Dennis Sabourin – Housing Maintainer

Our summer students David Sangris and Walter Johnson are busy assisting Maintenance with Annual Water Tank cleaning, and minor unit repairs.

Paying your rent pays off! Every year Housing provides a nice recognition letter to all the tenants whom are in good standing and we provide a \$25 gift card, this year we had 30 tenants in Good standing (last year we had 24), Keep up the good work in paying your rent on time every month.

In order to be eligible your income cannot exceed the Rental core Income threshold of \$5617.

We also had 3 tenants who paid off their arrears in full, we are very proud of our tenants!

HOUSING COMMITTEE:

- Cecilia Beaulieu – Chairperson
- Lena Black – Vice Chair
- Rachel Crapeau
- Berna Charlo
- Eileen Drygeese
- Nora Mackenzie
- Fred Sangris

Our Committee meets every 2 months on all Public Housing issues, this team is great they work very well together and make good sound decisions. Way to go and keep up the great work.

WAITING LIST FOR OUR COMMUNITIES:

With limited housing units, we have a total of 14 applications on the waiting list. 7 for Ndilo & 7 for Dettah the selection is based on the following criteria.

Process:

Anyone can apply for public housing. However, approval of an application is determined after the application has been evaluated and verification of

information is completed. The Local Housing Office shall verify all information in writing, for reference on file. In order to be eligible, you must have met the following:

- Age 19 and over
- Residency in the Community for 6 months
- no outstanding Arrears
- In good standing with both Power Companies
- Within the CNIT (Core Needs Income Threshold \$5617)

Our Division will assist in completion of the application. Once the application process is complete, we then follow the Procedures.

The first stage of the Application Process is for the NWT Housing Corporation to verify income using the applicants Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency provided applicants have signed the taxpayer consent form which is included in the housing application package to determine eligibility.

Once this process is complete the Tenant Relations Officer will call your references to check your tenant history. Your application will be placed on the waiting list. The Housing Committee will review the application and will only allocate a Public Housing unit when one becomes available. Your application will be kept on file for six months after which time you will be expected to update your application with any changes to living situation.

There is a waiting list of 6 months/longer. Priority is given to people that are in need based on the size of family and the number of bedrooms that are required/current living situation. When a unit is ready, the Tenant Relations Officer will call you.

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation Housing Division aim is to provide affordable housing to families of the YKDFN Band Membership and to educate and prepare tenants for home ownership and/or to be responsible tenants.

The NWT Housing Corporation public housing program is geared towards low income families. In order to be eligible for public housing your monthly gross household income cannot exceed the Rental Core Need Income Threshold of \$ 5617.00. For household income' over this amount applicants can apply for Market Rental unit.



If you're monthly gross household income exceeds the Homeownership Core Need Income Threshold of \$8,342 we suggest that you contact the NWT Housing Corporation for assistance in becoming a homeowner.

WHO WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED?

- Anyone who owes rent or damages to YKDFN, another Housing Association or land lord.
- Anyone who has caused drugs & Alcohol related damages or disturbances.
- Anyone who has been evicted from YKDFN, another Housing Association or landlord.
- Anyone who gives false information on their application.
- Anyone who is a home/property owner.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Anyone who owes rent or damages to YKDFN, another Housing Association or land lord must set up a payment plan and be committed to clear the arrears.
- Call or come to the office, every 6 months to show you are still interested in housing and update your information if there are any changes.
- Make sure that you have given all the information that you can to help the TRO check where you have lived before.
- Make sure you fill out the application completely and do not leave anything out.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Community and Public Works

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS

The Community and Public Works is responsible for implementing the Capital Plan, regular maintenance of YKDFN assets and infrastructure, the delivery of water services in Dettah, managing the sewage lagoon and landfill, following water license requirements, emergency preparedness, wildlife management, community clean-ups, and other areas as directed by Chiefs and Council.



SERVICES

- Water Delivery to ensure safe drinking water to residents in Dettah.
- Shuttle Bus service between Ndilo, Dettah and Yellowknife.
- Summer Road Maintenance.
- Winter Road Maintenance.
- Landfill Maintenance.
- Sewage Lagoon Maintenance.
- Community Clean Ups.
- Brush cutting in Dettah and Ndilo.
- Community Freezers.
- Wildlife management.

FISCAL 2019-2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS:

YKDFN Dettah Sewage Lagoon Upgrade

The purpose of this project was to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the sewage operations as well as addressing some safety factors.

Retrofit of Ndilo Daycare Facility

The project entailed the refurbishing of an existing house into a daycare facility.

CAPITAL PLAN

Approved Multi-Year Capital Plan

Chief and Council approved the 2020/2021 submitted Capital Plan by means of BCR.

This sets out the projects that YKDFN are committed to implement over the following years and states the source of funding for the different project.

Both the YKDFN Dettah Sewage Lagoon Upgrade and Retrofit of Ndilo Daycare Facility continued into the 2019/2020 financial year due to an addition to the scope of work. Chief Drygeese Government building had audio-visual upgrades.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Protection

YKDFN members and staff signed up to join the YKDFN Fire Department as Volunteer Staff.



Two training sessions were held to train members in Scene Safety and Security. The training was presented by the Office of the Fire Marshal, GNWT Municipal and Community Affairs Public Safety Division.

WORK IN PROGRESS

YKDFN CULTURAL CENTER.

This is a multi-year project to establish a Cultural Center and Economic Development Incubator in Dettah.

JUNE 2019 YKDFN WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

This project assesses the cost to provide water services in Dettah as well as a review of the current water tariffs in Dettah.

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT BUS

YKDFN has put out an RFP for suitable bus to replace the current van used to shuttle members between Dettah, Ndilo and Yellowknife.

FLEET TRACKING SYSTEM.

This is part of the YKDFN Asset Management Program. YKDFN vehicles are tracked in real-time.

DID YOU KNOW

YKDFN regularly takes water samples to monitor the effectiveness of the sewage lagoon. This is one of the ways we monitor our impact on the environment.

DRINKING WATER

The chlorine and turbidity levels of every load of water delivered by our water tanks are monitored to ensure that our drinking water in Dettah is delivered safely and meeting the required standards.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Economic Development

MANDATE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

The Economic Development Working Group (EDWG) has been formed under the Economic Development (ED) department to review, make and promote economic activities and project recommendations for the economic prosperity and wealth for Yellowknives Dene First Nation members.

HIGH LEVEL DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION:

YKDFN is a new department as of December 2018, Economic Development Department to assist membership with gainful employment and a business ownership. With this being a new department, projects have been initiated but main focus for the focus has been to develop a strategy and a starting baseline for the overall and holistic approach to community economic development for its members.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

LABOUR FORCE DATABASE:

This data base will assist efforts to ensure that membership resumes are added and will assist with matching a person to employment opportunities; making the application process easier and quicker. Current status, on-going work.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY:

YKDFN is in the process of completing a 5-year Economic Development Strategy scheduled to be ready in 2020 with ideas and information gathered from the community via community meetings including a survey. The strategy will provide guidance and direction for economic development projects going forward.

FINANCIAL LITERACY:

Membership has asked for training on Financial Literacy; Please contact the Economic Development Officer to receive your One-on-One financial literacy training geared to your personal finances right now, also looking forward to your future goals.

- Creation of our YKDFN drummers on recorded audio; our drumming songs are on CD, iTunes, and Spotify under the name “Wiiliideh Drummers”
- Artisan Shop: YKDFN now has a Artisan Shop where locally handmade traditional arts and crafts can be bought and sold. The goal is to have our YKDFN members arts and craft sold internationally.
- Marketing Plan: started in 2019, scheduled to be completed in 2020; YKDFN Artisan Shop is working on a marketing plan to identify and maximize sales and generate revenue, and maximize YKDFN artists exposure internationally.

- The Economic Development Officer sits on the Socio-Economic Working Group with Giant Mine Remediation team
- Creation of a Cultural multi-purpose Incubation hub: based on the wants and needs the membership. In conjunction with the YKDFN Department of Public Works, YKDFN is in the feasibility stage of developing a safe place for multi-purpose cultural gatherings, YKDFN museum artifacts, tourist attraction, a place to preserve, exhibit and practice the cultural traditions and language of our people. A micro-Business Hub/incubation hub is where members can learn to start and run a business of their own. This is a multi-year project where 2019 focused on the feasibility study. More to come in 2020.

COMING SOON FOR 2020 PROJECTS:

- **Creation of an Economic Development Working Group; if you would like to be a part of the working group please stay tuned and look forward to the Expression of Interest.**
- **In 2020 YKDFN will be working on developing the abilities provide services to completed free tax returns for youth, seniors, and low-income**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Lands Management Department

The newly formed Department of Land Management (the Department) performs some of the roles and functions formerly within the ambit of all-encompassing Land and Environment Department under the guidance of Land Management Director Mr. Machel Thomas. The Department is dedicated to performing the land administration and land management functions of the band as directed by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Administration. The Department supports other YKDFN departments by providing spatial products and services and liaises with the City of Yellowknife, the Federal and Territorial Governments on land matters of interest to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

WHAT WE DO:

- Administration of Permission to Occupy applications
- Land Use Planning and Management (implementation)
- Land information Management
- Cartography

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 (ACCOMPLISHMENTS)

YKDFN OCCUPANCY INVENTORY

The Department of Land Management started working to create a digital inventory of member occupancy within its traditional Chief Drygeese Territory. This is to support internal land administration and protect against adverse claims of interest by non-member agencies/ entities which might arise against property occupied by members.

UNAUTHORIZED OCCUPANCY MANAGEMENT

During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the department had meaningful engagement with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) with the aim of addressing the issue of unauthorised occupancy on the land. This discourse has paved the path toward the creation of an institutional relationship between both parties to tackle the scourge of squatting within the Chief Drygeese.

LAND INFORMATION DATABASE

The GNWT in conjunction with the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) were granted 2 ArcGIS Pro software licenses at no cost to the First Nation. This is a powerful mapping and spatial data analysis tool which enabled the depart to commence in house digitizing of the vast collection of hardcopy maps and other critical location-based information.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND USE PLANS

The Department has started to implement the approved Land Use Plans for Ndilo, 2002; Dettah, 2001 and the Dettah Access Road, 2015. Due to a lack of capacity and resources these plans laid dormant and were not given due consideration in for making location-based decisions. During the coming year, the Department will be undertaking awareness and education initiatives to sensitise the community as to the role and considerations of these plans.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Work on creating the digital inventory of occupancy within the Chief Drygeese Territory continues as does building the robustness of our land information database. We also continue to interact with the GNWT on managing recreational use in the Chief Drygeese Territory.

DID YOU KNOW? SQUATTER REPORTING ONLINE

Following various complaints from members about squatting on the land during the winter.

The Yellowknives Dene Land Management Department created an online form which allows members to report the location of squatters. The form can be completed on smartphone, computer, and tablet. To complete the survey, go to: <https://arcg.is/1Dbmqq> or Scan the QR Code:



The form allows members to identify the squatter location on a web map, upload a photo and provide a comment if desired.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Treaty, Rights, and Governance Department

2019-2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As of November 2019, the Land & Environment (L&E) Department has been restructured for the purpose of making the work occur more efficiently. Currently, the L&E department no longer exists and has since been split into 4 new departments.



On the way to Whitebeach Point with YKDFN membership (top)

PHOTO CREDIT: JOHANNE BLACK

Arriving at Whitebeach Point with YKDFN membership (bottom)

PHOTO CREDIT: JOHANNE BLACK

The Treaty, Rights & Governance department was one of the new departments created from the restructure. Johanne Black is the new Director of Treaty, Rights & Governance for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN).

WHAT DOES THIS DEPARTMENT DO?

Purpose: The Department's overall mission is to protect YKDFN's treaty rights & aboriginal rights and title. This newly created department is responsible for the provision of the overall direction, coordination, implementation, execution and management of all aspects of the department, inclusive of Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Rights and Title, and Governance Policy and Legislative Framework matters. This department will execute the strategic direction of the YKDFN Chief and Council in this work, with the guidance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Responsibility: To establish the YKDFN legal and governance framework, which sets out the processes for YKDFN to structure its government. This framework will be the blueprint upon which all future YKDFN laws, regulations and policies will be built. The department is also responsible for managing YKDFN's interest in the overall Akaitho Land Claim Process by having our own community negotiator (Fred Sangris) negotiate our interest in the land claim work, while remaining consistent with YKDFN's mandates, policies and vision. We are hopeful, that the Akaitho Land Claim process negotiations will lead to the completion of an agreeable land, resources, and Self-Government Agreement under the Akaitho Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation umbrella (YKDFN, Lutsel'Ke Dene First Nation, Deninu Kue First Nation).

AKAITCHO LAND CLAIM PROCESS

The Akaitho Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation (mandated to negotiate a land claim for YKDFN, Lutsel Ke Dene First Nation, and Deninu Kue First Nation under this umbrella group) have been at the negotiating table with Canada since 1992. Over the years Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation has had a few Chief Negotiators and Community Negotiators to help move negotiations along with the support of all the former and current Akaitho Chiefs. It has been a lengthy and challenging process; however, Akaitho Negotiators are advancing the process and plan to begin consultation on the Akaitho Land Claim Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) with the First Nation Communities.

The Akaitho team has continued to work under a mandate of Treaty implementation. The negotiations process is NOT about extinguishing our Treaty, it is about clarifying and implementing the Treaty that is based on the foundations of the existing 1900 Treaty.

Most recently, Canada submitted a counter proposal to Akaithcho First Nations, which is currently under review. The proposal outlines the size of Dene Title Land, access to surface and subsurface resources, cash compensation, and the percentage for royalties.

Updates regarding the counter proposal was provided to all Akaithcho First Nations leaders and community members in October and November of 2017. Major decisions in the coming months by Akaithcho Chiefs and Council is expected.

Coming in the New Year: For YKDFN's own benefit, YKDFN will provide an analysis of the Akaithcho Agreement-in-Principle to YKDFN's Chief and Council and YKDFN staff and youth membership. This analysis will be on the legal risks and benefits of moving forward with the AIP. This will include a detailed legal analysis of the Akaithcho Agreement-in-Principle. As well, a chapter-by-chapter review of treaty terms and how they may impact YKDFN's rights, title and interests under the Akaithcho Agreement versus the common law. The analysis will be shared with YKDFN membership and Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation.

GIANT MINE APOLOGY & COMPENSATION

YKDFN has sent a letter to Canada requesting for an apology and compensation regarding the impacts on Band members from living near the Giant Mine. To prepare for this request, YKDFN is in the midst of completing the initial information gathering (historical research) and has also obtained legal counsel to assist us in this reconciliation effort to define a path forward. We will keep you informed on this matter.

Coming in the New Year: YKDFN will be launching a petition to call on the Government of Canada to (1) acknowledge and apologize for Canada's role in permitting Giant Mine, and the resulting harm to the lands and people of the Yellowknives Dene; and (2) Compensate the Yellowknives Dene for the lands and resources taken without their consent, and the harm caused to their lands and people; and (3) Ensure the Yellowknives Dene, as the people who suffered most from the toxic legacy of Giant Mine, can fully participate in the clean-up of the lands and long-term care of the lands by creating set-aside contract arrangements and skill development to provide services to the Giant Mine Remediation Project.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- YKDFN's Governance Framework; and
- Establishment of the capacity of YKDFN's Treaty, Rights & Governance Department; and
- Continue to protect YKDFN's treaty rights & aboriginal rights and title.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE FOLLOWING PUBLISHED REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE:

- History of the Yellowknives Dene
- Giant Mine TK Study Report
- Giant Mine Health Effects Monitoring Program Results
- Whitebeach Point Occupancy and Use Study Report
- Dettah and Ndilo Land Use Plans
- Thaidene TK Study Report
- Seabridge Gold TK Study (draft)
- Bathurst Caribou Monitoring Report (CIMP Report)
- Tlicho All-season Road TK Study
- Cumulative Impacts & Monitoring Framework Report (1st year report – year 1 of 3)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources Division

HUMAN RESOURCES SUMMARY

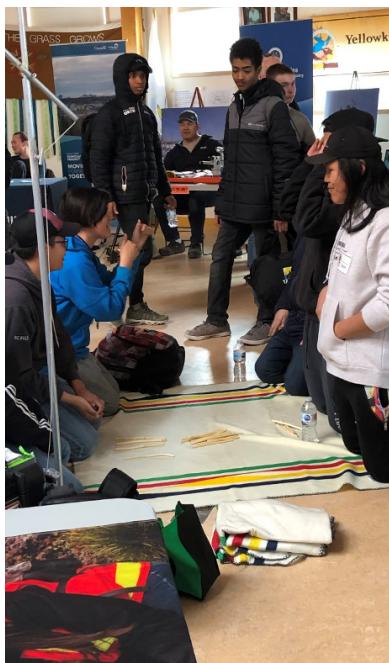
Human Resources' main objective is to maintain a maximum level of service to YKDFN Citizens by having qualified personnel to achieve YKDFN goal for self-governance.

We at, Yellowknives Dene First Nation believe that 'people' are our most important 'asset'. YKDFN employs a total of 77 staff: 52 permanent, 25 part-time casual staff. All employed within the Dettah and Ndilo administration, Municipal Works, Community Wellness, Dechita Naowo, Land Management, Environment Division, Treaty Rights & Governance, Housing Division, and Aboriginal Head Start/Daycare Programs.

With the loyal dedication and commitment of the Administration and Human Resources Division staff, the following highlights the successes over the 2019-20 year within human resources, IBA implementation, and outreach services delivered.

UPDATE ON 2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS OF SUCCESSES/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Career Fair held on May 10, 2019 with 30 exhibitors and over 206 participants
- 35 summer students employed during the period May 2019 to August 2019
- 22 post-secondary students assisted through our education bursary program for 2019-20
- 20 post-secondary students awarded scholarships
- Our daycare plans began in November 2019 with a late opening due to COVID-19, and the Lil' Williideh Champions Daycare opened doors to children in June of 2020



EMPLOYMENT STATS

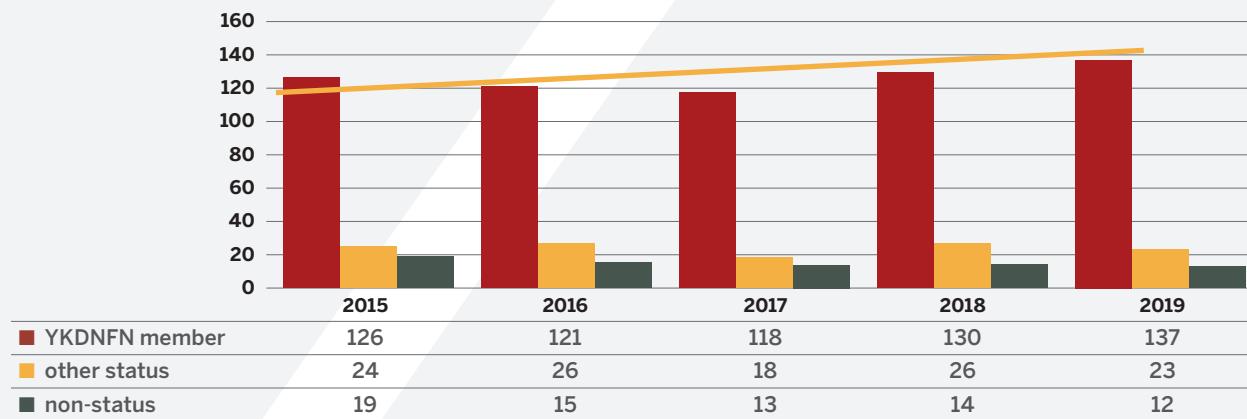
YKDFN has a total of 77 positions, of which 52 are permanent positions and 25 casual positions:

- 56 YKDFN member staff
- 11 other band status employees
- 10 non-status

A total of 172 persons employed during April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, which includes permanent staff, summer students, casuals and on-call.

- 52 permanent employees
- 25 casuals full-time
- 60 casual part-time and on-call employees
- 35 summer students

YKDFN Employment Stats

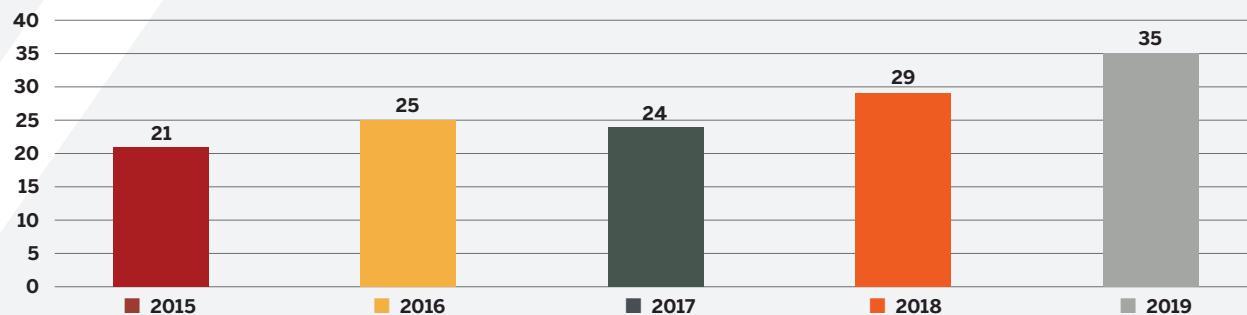


ANNUAL SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM:

Our unique and customized summer student employment initiatives increase employable skills for our students to ensure our success as a First Nations, while practicing our traditions and culture.

This initiative also brings us forward to self-governance and self-sustainability. 35 summer students were employed in various YKDFN departments during the period May 2019 through to August 2019.

Summer Student Stats





YKDFN EDUCATION PROGRAM:

- YKDFN/Diavik Education Bursary Program - 22 Members attended post-secondary, and successfully completed term, were assisted in the 2019/20 School Year
- YKDFN/Diavik Education Bursary Program - 10 awarded
- YKDFN/DeBeers Scholarship Program- 10 awarded
- YKDFN High School Achievement Award – 9 awarded

IBA IMPLEMENTATION DIVISION

2019/20 IMPLEMENTATION WORK PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

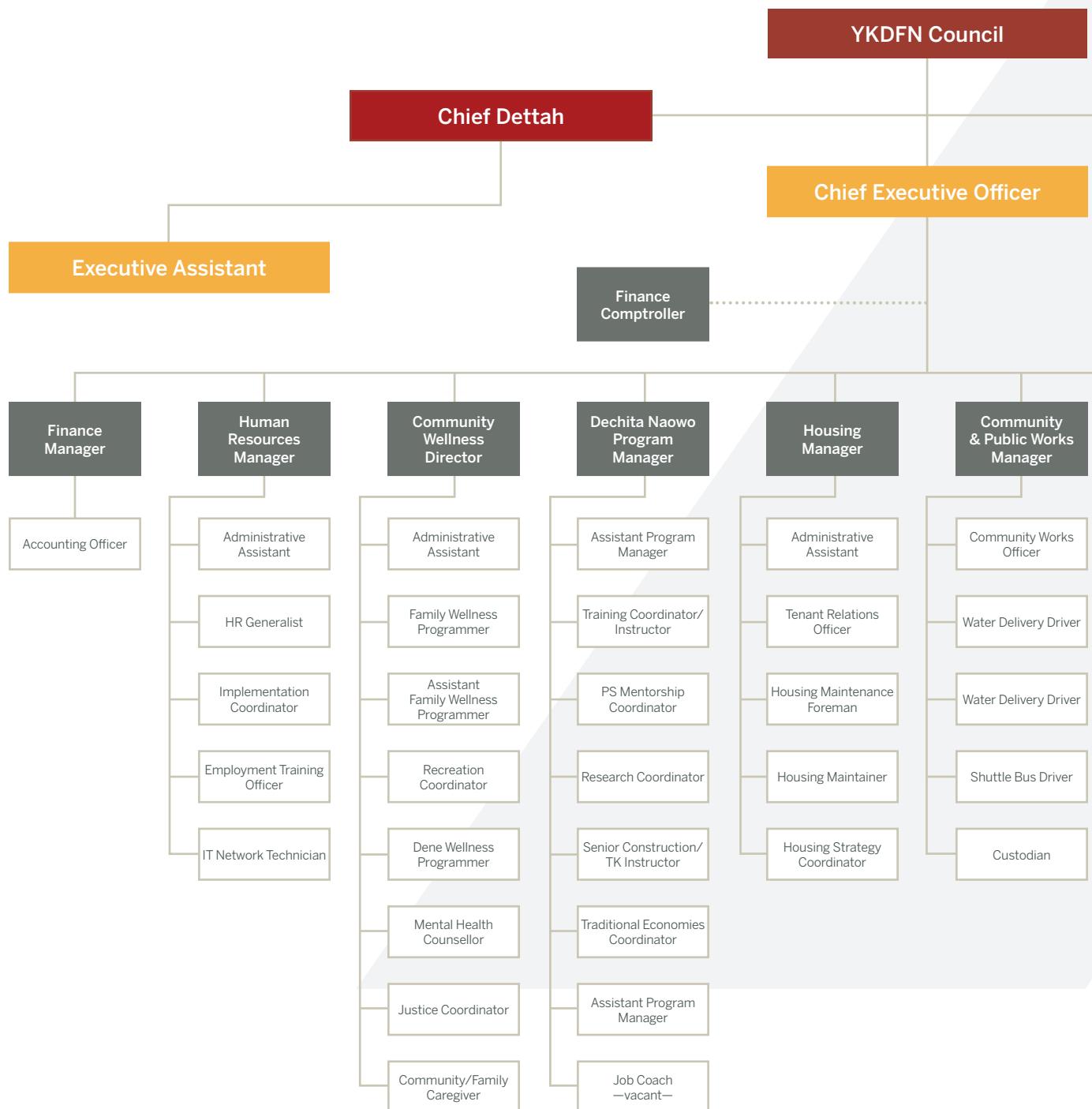
- A total of \$81,100 was distributed from De Beers Gahcho Ku project to YKDFN departments to enhance program delivery;
 - Human Resources Database Software
 - DeBeers Post-Secondary Scholarship
 - High School Laptop Program
 - Annual Appreciation Days
 - Aboriginal Headstart Program Support
 - Community Wellness Programming
 - Christmas Program



- Provided outreach services to members and non-members,
 - Educational or training initiatives,
 - Updating/creating resumes,
 - Employment applications, cover letters, offers and forms,
 - Employment referrals to mining companies, industry, and other agencies,
- Provide assistance on maintaining the Artisan Shop and mentoring Tourism Trainees
- Attended CIRNAC Indian Registration Administration training to Initiate YKDFN Membership Database
- A total of \$15,000 was distributed from Diavik Scholarship;
- 150 individuals assisted through our outreach services such as referrals to outside agencies/ industry for employment and training opportunities, through the efforts of the Implementation Coordinator(s).
- Upgrading the human resources database to better serve our Members seeking employment and training.

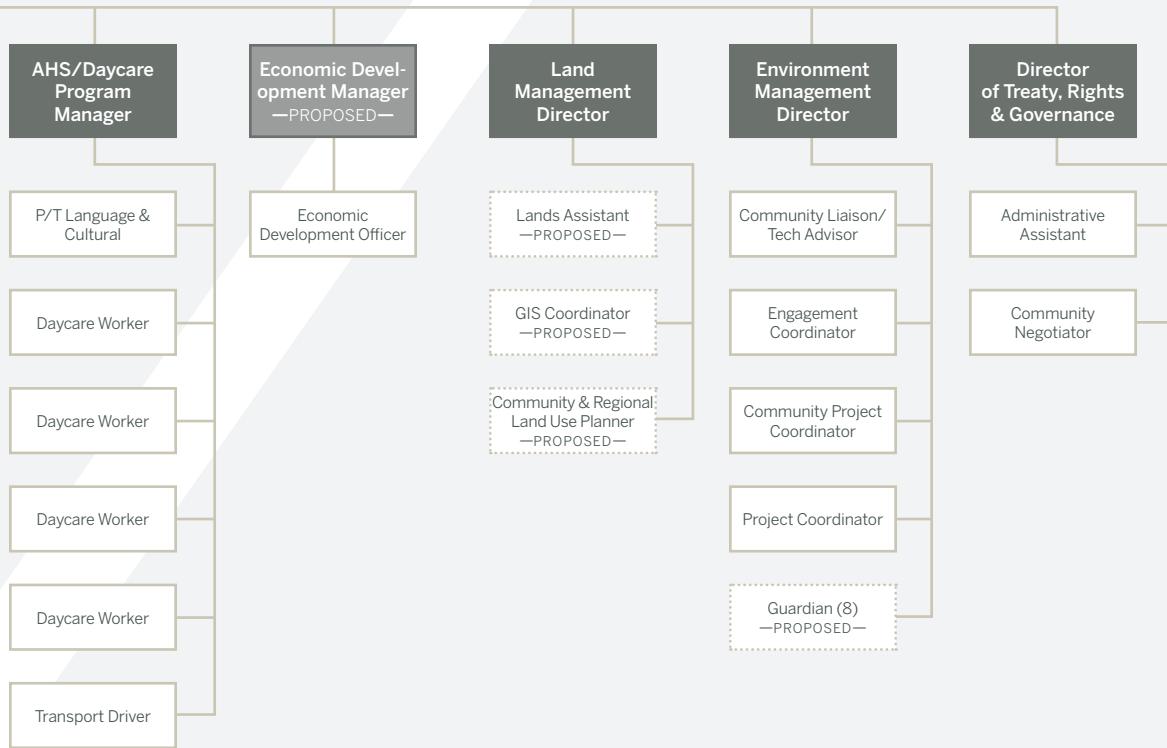
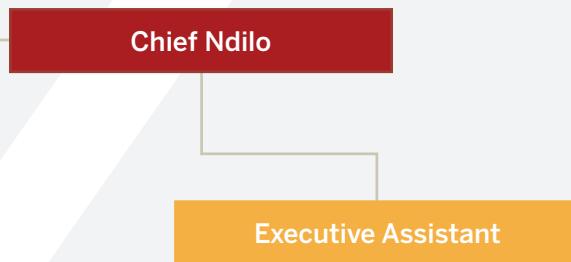
YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION

Organizational Chart



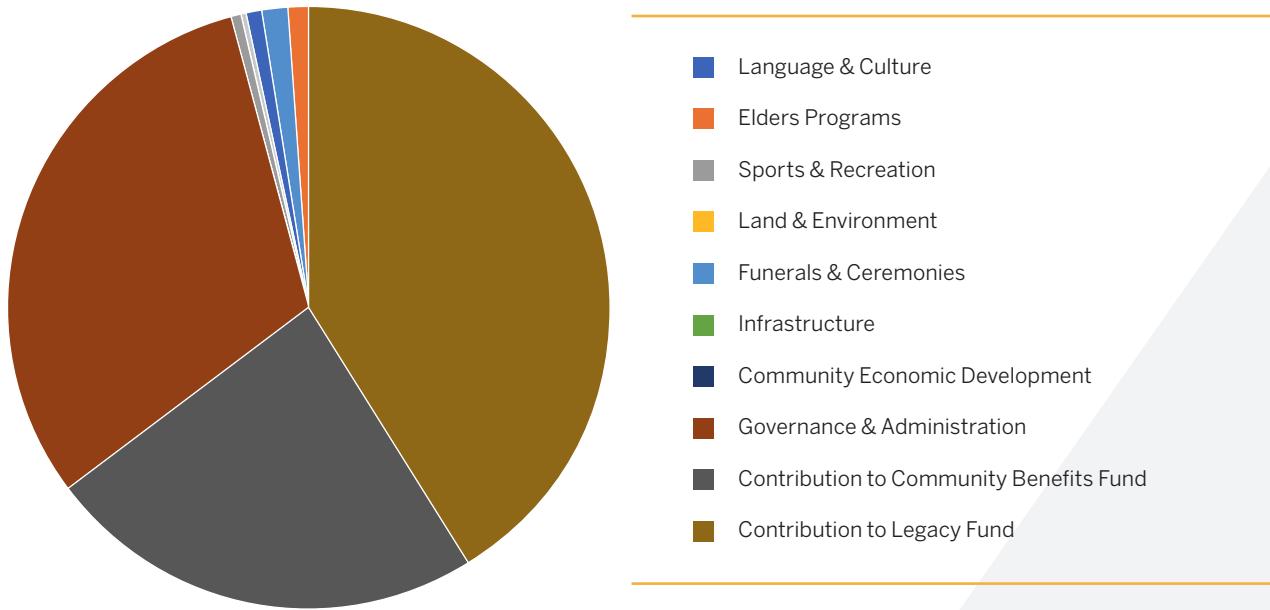


YKDFN staff photo.



2019 – 2020

Total IBA Funds



Language & Culture	\$30,045
Elders Programs	\$44,382
Sports & Recreation	\$31,201
Land & Environment	\$10,492
Funerals & Ceremonies	\$47,278
Infrastructure	\$18,883
Community Economic Development	\$3,782
Governance & Administration	\$1,059,382
Contribution to Community Benefits Fund	\$817,683
Contribution to Legacy Fund	\$1,375,419
Total	\$3,438,548

Chief & Council Budget:

- Chiefs Salary
- Advertising
- Executive Assistants Salary
- Legal
- Councilor honorariums
- Insurance
- Interpreting
- Supplies
- Chief & Council Travel
- Catering
- Meetings Costs

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, YKDFN received a total of \$3,438,548 from Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) with the owners of the Ekati, Gahcho Kue and Diavik diamond mines.

Mine	Amount
Ekati	\$ 713,903
Gahcho Kue	1,749,334
Diavik	975,311
Total	\$3,438,548

A total of \$1,245,446 was used by YKDFN for various programs and services. The remaining balance of \$2,193,102 was transferred to the Gosoomba dehshe Trust (GDT) and divided between the Community Benefits Fund and Legacy Fund per the terms of the Agreement.

The purpose of the GDT is to receive, administer, invest, and distribute IBA funds and payments from future land claims for the long-term benefit of YKDFN and its members.

The goals of the GDT are:

- To hold and safeguard the funds; and,
- To balance spending for current needs with a long-term legacy fund for future generations of Yellowknives Dene members.

GOSOOMBA DEHSHE TRUST

	Flow Through Fund	Community Benefits Fund	Legacy Fund	Total
Opening Balance as of April 1, 2019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 10
Transferred from YKDFN	-	2,063,129	1,375,419	3,438,548
Transferred to YKDFN	-	(1,245,446)	-	(1,245,446)
Trust Administration Expenses	-	(68,853)	-	(68,853)
Closing Balance as of March 31, 2020	\$ -	\$ 748,830	\$ 1,375,429	\$ 2,124,259

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2020 Management Discussion and Analysis

The Chief and Council for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation delegates the responsibility for the production of Financial Statements to the Administration. Their Financial Statements are reviewed by the appointed auditors based on the principles established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. Once the auditor has reviewed the Financial Statements, the reports shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer for review and then to the Council for approval.

To assist in meeting the First Nation's responsibilities, staff maintains various internal controls which provide reasonable assurances that all transactions are accurately recorded and appropriately authorized. Further, staff ensures that assets are properly accounted for and that the integrity of financial records is maintained.

The following financial discussion and analysis have been prepared by management and should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and their accompanying notes and schedules.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR YEAR ENDED 2020

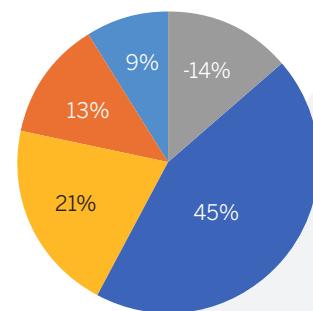
Significant capital expenditures in 2020 included completion of upgrades to the sewage lagoon and upgrades to the audio visual system in Chief Drygeese Building.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Statement of Financial Position reports the First Nations financial and non-financial resources, obligations and accumulated surplus as at March 31, 2020, on a comparative basis. This statement is used to evaluate the First Nations ability to finance its activities and to meet its liabilities and commitments. An important indicator on the Statement of Financial Position is the First Nation's net financial assets. The net financial assets are the difference between financial assets and financial liabilities, which provides an indication of the liquidity for additional spending without borrowing funds for operations or capital purchases.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

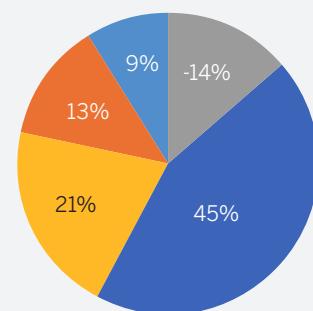
(2020 - \$2,009,568)



- Government of Canada
- Akaitcho Territory Government
- Allowence for doubtful accounts
- Government of Northwest Territories
- Trade Receivables

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

(2019 - \$2,173,142)



- Government of Canada
- Akaitcho Territory Government
- Allowence for doubtful accounts
- Government of Northwest Territories
- Trade Receivables

Net financial assets increased by \$3,729,568 from \$16,296,490 in 2019 to \$20,026,058 in the current year. This was primarily a result of the increase in the investment in government business enterprises of \$3,839,497 and an increase of the due from related parties of \$572,553, due from the Gosoomba deshe Trust (2017), offset by an increase in deferred revenue of \$1,152,883, related to unspent Gas Tax and CPI funding received as well as unspent funding from other

sources as a result of COVID-19. Other assets and liabilities varied slightly from the prior year.

Non-financial assets increased by \$4,618, from \$3,494,882 in 2019 to \$3,499,500. The increase is attributable to an increase in prepaid expenses and deposits of \$18,203 offset by a decrease in tangible capital assets, capital expenditures next of amortization expense of \$13,585.

OPERATIONS

The surplus before capital transfers and other items was \$1,930,222 in 2020 while in 2019 there was a surplus of \$1,600,3336. This includes amortization expense of \$249,735 in 2020 and \$214,697 in 2019.

Revenues increased by \$891,298 [(2020) \$12,700,621; (2019) \$11,809,323]. This was primarily due to an increase in impact benefit payments of \$859,096.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Revenues	\$12,700,621	\$11,809,323	\$9,678,920	\$7,850,448	\$8,948,270	\$9,122,243
Growth of revenue	8%	22%	23%	(12%)	(2%)	

Expenses increased by \$561,412 [(2020) \$10,770,399; (2018) \$10,208,987]. Significant differences among expenses in comparison to the prior year was an increase in wages and benefits as a result of fulfilling

management positions and new programs in the year and materials and supplies related to new programs. Contract services decreased significantly because in the prior year there were two significant capital projects.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Expenses	\$10,770,399	\$10,208,987	\$9,585,449	\$7,981,601	\$8,359,029	\$7,266,395
Growth of expenses	5%	7%	20%	(5%)	15%	

The equity earnings of the business enterprises was \$3,839,496 in 2020 and \$2,301,053 in 2019.

of revenue over expenses was \$5,927,287 for 2020 compared to \$7,953,690 for 2019.

When taking into consideration the financial results of the business enterprises and other items the excess

\$2,193,102 was transferred to the Gosoomba deshe Trust (2017) as contributions to the Trust.

CASH FLOWS

The First Nation's cash position increased by \$158,754, the slight increase is because all funds recognized as revenue were spent, equity earnings from government business enterprises were not distributed but

increased the value of the investment and excess IBA revenues were contributed to the Trust for future growth and security of the first nation.

Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting

March 31, 2020

The accompanying non-consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of management. The non-consolidated financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and necessarily include estimates which are based on management's best judgements.

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation maintains systems of internal accounting and administrative controls of high quality, consistent with reasonable cost. Such systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is relevant, reliable and accurate and the Nation's assets are appropriately accounted for and adequately safeguarded.

The Chief and Council is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the non-consolidated financial statements.

The non-consolidated financial statements have been audited by Crowe MacKay LLP in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of their members. Crowe MacKay LLP has full access to Chief and Council. Crowe MacKay LLP have full and free access to the council for information purposes.


Chief and Council

Date


Chief Executive Officer

Date

Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Non-consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31	2020	2019
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,394,535	\$ 5,235,781
Restricted cash (Note 5)	3,386,364	3,176,751
Term deposits (Note 6)	262,547	258,186
Accounts receivable (Note 7)	2,009,568	2,173,142
GST receivable	297,336	149,215
Due from related parties (Note 8)	9,481,794	8,909,241
Investments in government business enterprises (Note 9)	6,532,396	2,692,899
	27,364,540	22,595,215
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 10)	820,313	1,078,621
Government remittances payable	95,551	29,498
Impact benefit agreement payable (Note 11)	282,900	286,800
Due to related parties (Note 12)	1,281	45,422
Employee benefit obligations (Note 14)	425,625	314,906
Deferred revenue (Note 15)	5,642,379	4,489,496
Contributions repayable (Note 16)	70,433	53,982
	7,338,482	6,298,725
Net financial assets	20,026,058	16,296,490
Non-financial Assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 17)	3,419,397	3,432,982
Prepaid expenses and deposits	80,103	61,900
	3,499,500	3,494,882
Accumulated Surplus (Note 18)	\$ 23,525,558	\$ 19,791,372
Contractual rights (Note 19)		
Contractual obligations (Note 20)		
Guarantees (Note 21)		

Approved on behalf of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation



, Chief and Council



, Chief Executive Officer



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Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements

**To the Members of
Yellowknives Dene First Nation**

Opinion

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020, the summary statement of operations and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation for the year ended March 31, 2020. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated September 10, 2020.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Public Sector Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed a qualified opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated September 10, 2020. The basis for our qualified audit opinion was the subsidiary investment, Deton'Cho Corporation, has not been reviewed or audited for the year ended March 31, 2020; however, the financial statements of Deton'Cho/Scarlet Security Services Ltd. (51% owned subsidiary), Deton'Cho Nahanni Construction Ltd. (51% owned subsidiary), Aboriginal Diamond Group (33% owned significantly influenced investee), Diamonds International Canada (subsidiary of Aboriginal Diamond Group), and KeTe Whii Ltd (25% owned significantly influenced investee) are reviewed, not audited for the year ended March 31, 2020. The financial statements of Bouwa Whee Catering (100% owned subsidiary), Deton'Cho Logistics Ltd. (51% owned subsidiary), and Deton'Cho Nuna Joint Venture (40% owned subsidiary) were audited, however due to the size of their operations it was not possible to determine if there were any further adjustments necessary.

The financial statements of Deton'Cho Mining Supplies Inc. (100% owned subsidiary), Yellowknife River Resorts Inc. (25% owned investment), Deton'Cho Investments North Ltd. (100% owned subsidiary), Deton'Cho Construction Services Ltd. (100% owned subsidiary), Deton'Cho Training and Conference Centre (100% owned subsidiary), 506588 NWT Ltd. (100% owned subsidiary), Deton'Cho Stantec Ltd. (51% owned subsidiary), Lakeview Limited Partnership (50.05% owned subsidiary), Deton'Cho Environmental Corporation (100% owned subsidiary), Deton'Cho Landtran Transport Inc (51% owned joint arrangement of Deton'Cho Logistics Ltd.), Deton'Cho / Procon Joint Venture (51% owned significantly influenced investee), Deton'Cho Morgan Construction and Environmental Ltd. (51% owned joint arrangement), Deton'Cho Summit Aviation Limited Partnership (50.1% owned significantly influenced investee), KeTe Whii / Procon Joint Venture (subsidiary of KeTe Whii Ltd.), Nuna Deton'Cho Winter Road Services (25% owned significantly influenced investee), 6380 NWT Ltd. (17.24% owned trustee), YK Airport Joint Venture (17.24% owned joint arrangement), Deton'Cho Employment Services Ltd. (100% owned subsidiary), Deton'Cho Drilling and Blasting Ltd. (100% owned subsidiary), Deton'Cho Limited Partnership (0.01% significantly influenced investee), and DCC-NNP Limited Partnership (99.84% owned subsidiary) have been neither reviewed nor audited for the year ended March 31, 2020.

Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements Continued

We were unable to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues and expenses in these companies for the years ended March 31, 2020 or March 31, 2019, assets and liabilities in these companies as at March 31, 2020 and 2019, net income of Deton'Cho Corporation for the years ended March 31, 2020 or March 31, 2019, and retained earnings of Deton'Cho Corporation as at April 1 and March 31 for both the 2020 and 2019 fiscal years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2019 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".



Chartered Professional Accountants

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
September 10, 2020

Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Summary of Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31	2020	2019
Assets		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,394,535	\$ 5,235,781
Restricted cash	3,386,364	3,176,751
Accounts receivable	2,009,568	2,173,142
GST receivable	297,336	149,215
Term deposits	262,547	258,186
Due from related parties	9,481,794	8,909,241
Investment in government business enterprise	6,532,396	2,692,899
	27,364,540	22,595,215
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 820,313	\$ 1,078,621
Government remittances payable	95,551	29,498
Due to related parties	1,281	45,422
Employee benefit obligations	425,625	314,906
Deferred revenue	5,642,379	4,489,496
Contributions repayable	70,433	53,982
Impact benefit agreement payable	282,900	286,800
	7,338,482	6,298,725
Net financial assets	20,026,058	16,296,490
Non-financial Assets		
Tangible capital assets	3,419,397	3,432,982
Prepaid expenses and deposits	80,103	61,900
	3,499,500	3,494,882
Accumulated Surplus	\$23,525,558	\$19,791,372

See accompanying notes to the summary financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation

 Chief and Council

 Chief Executive Officer

Yellowknives Dene First Nation**Summary Statement of Operations**

For the year ended March 31	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
Revenue			
Government transfers and contributions			
Federal Government:			
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada	\$ 1,810,634	\$ 2,297,092	\$ 2,441,013
Health Canada	-	303,602	291,606
Employment and Social Development Canada	-	688,945	645,446
Other federal contributions	1,271,298	489,854	12,959
Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)	2,041,188	3,856,860	3,719,947
Akaitho Territory Government	60,500	652,124	804,085
Other contributions	383,916	308,442	221,579
Impact benefit agreement revenue	1,692,274	3,681,676	2,822,580
Administration fees	250,000	232,105	202,282
Municipal services	44,000	278,213	288,939
Other income	290,502	506,250	345,149
Transfers	40,000	278,425	770,415
Interest income	75,000	284,305	263,681
Contributions repayable	-	(29,389)	(23,712)
Transfer to deferred revenue	-	(5,541,302)	(4,444,643)
Transfer from deferred revenue	2,497,750	4,413,419	3,447,999
	10,457,062	12,700,621	11,809,325
Expenses			
Band Government	\$ 2,339,609	\$ 4,086,229	\$ 3,703,308
Municipal Services	1,160,869	1,654,459	1,946,418
Economic Development	710,000	88,059	-
Education	315,439	409,592	330,185
Community Wellness	971,342	970,210	940,036
Lands	1,293,961	1,645,454	1,412,809
Dechita Naowo	1,626,711	1,916,396	1,876,234
	8,417,931	10,770,399	10,208,990
Excess of revenue over expenses before other items	2,039,131	1,930,222	1,600,335
Other items			
Writtenown of Weledeh Society	-	(78,581)	(81,011)
Share of partnership income (loss)	-	-	(440,108)
Equity earnings in government business enterprise	-	3,839,496	2,301,053
Recovery of due from related party allowance	-	-	2,623,608
Transfer to tangible capital assets	-	236,150	987,997
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	-	-
Recovery of expenses	-	-	-
	-	3,997,065	5,391,539
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 2,039,131	\$ 5,927,287	\$ 6,991,874

Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Notes to Summary Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

1. Significant accounting policies

The summary financial statements are derived from the complete audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards as issued by the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB), as at and for the year ended March 31, 2020.

The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in the summary financial statements so that they are consistent, in all material respects, with or represent a fair summary of the audited financial statements.

2. Expenses by object

For the year ended March 31	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
Administration fees	\$ 240,904	\$ 232,105	\$ 266,969
Advertising	11,300	18,405	18,046
Amortization	-	249,736	214,696
Bad debts	-	2,782	(40,259)
Basic needs	-	13,425	12,905
Catering	24,550	40,141	34,533
Contract services	1,082,338	1,384,424	2,012,558
Cultural events	42,585	72,346	65,433
Donations	-	43,855	30,300
Equipment lease	82,428	129,970	106,053
Grants	205,750	263,147	290,935
Insurance	145,510	139,575	121,091
Interest and bank charges	9,790	11,115	10,192
Language, culture and interpreting	22,500	200,519	241,160
Materials and supplies	730,652	604,231	507,764
Office equipment	23,900	75,879	29,874
Office expenses	50,234	21,228	13,983
Professional fees	97,700	511,229	435,223
Rent	267,962	263,688	259,197
Repairs and maintenance	45,500	184,744	82,823
Student allowance	155,437	312,950	278,725
Training	280,564	135,559	294,484
Travel	98,495	408,344	320,964
Utilities and telephone	369,393	407,418	377,672
Vehicle	63,300	90,074	97,567
Wages and benefits	4,367,139	4,953,510	4,126,099
	\$ 8,417,931	\$10,770,399	\$10,208,987



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NORTH
CREATIVE



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