

Community Engagement Coordinator – Sub-Regional Caucus Report

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Communities Served: Daylu Dena Council, Dease River First Nation,
Taku River First Nation

Engagement Area: True North, Kaska-Tlingit

Sub-Region: Northwest



Daylu Dena Council

Daylu Dena Council (DDC) in Lower Post has held elections; welcome to Deputy Chief Fred Lutz and Council and also to new Health Coordinator, Kristel Vance.

Addressing a long-standing priority, the community is tirelessly working with FNHA and prospective dental contractors to bring their dream of an operational dental clinic to Lower Post, serving DDC, Dease River First Nation (DRFN) and the surrounding communities.

DDC held a men's hunting camp in late summer and a women's hunting camp will begin shortly. Home and Community Care has an enthusiastic new worker and wonderful plans for the fall with the Elders, food preservation and preparation education, and a focus on physical activity and mental wellness. An open house was held in late summer to gather community priorities and voices and to share information and available resources. Information gathered will direct activities and focus for the fall and regular surveys and follow up is planned in conjunction with community engagement sessions mid-fall.

Dease River First Nation

Dease River First Nation in Good Hope Lake has been moving in the direction of community wellness planning and a unique DRFN community directed wellness framework initiative. This would stand upon an evergreen, intentional core document with a strong background, current community status, direction, and priorities. Community service delivery, projects, and planning would be based on these directions and fit within the existing framework, so that funding opportunities, surplus and spending can be efficiently utilized to address priority areas of interest within the wellness framework. This framework will enable the incredibly resourceful community to address unique needs and experiences in ways that are reflective of the community, resources, culture, and people in a truly holistic and encompassing manner. DRFN has been working with FNHA funding

arrangements and is planning a community information meeting with membership to increase understanding and self-determination within the funding structure, programs, and service delivery framework. This meeting will be held in the Fall of 2018 in a timeframe respectful of harvesting and hunting priorities.

DRFN hosted its annual Hot Lakes Camp, hugely successful as always, and is entering a harvesting season with plans for community gatherings and food preservation work.

Taku River Tlingit First Nation

TRTFN has welcomed a new Health and Social Manager, Kara Garcia-Rideout in the midst of a very busy season and has been working on multiple projects, including a Regional Envelope Funding request for a multi-year Traditional wellness initiative. This transformative initiative honours Tlingit knowledge and culture by creating pathways for community and culturally-grounded and driven care and interactions, with a specific focus on mental wellness and substance use. Within this initiative, community wellness work has increased in hours and availability, and a new position will be created which honours and values the existence and navigation of knowledge keepers, healers, Elders, Clan leaders, and local culture, customs and constitution.

The community has plans to hold the third *Community Voices* gathering this fall, focusing on roots of, solutions to, and traditional values and directives regarding community violence, mental wellness and substance use. Local interagency engagement and planning sessions are planned for mid fall as well, following hunting and traditional harvesting activities.

The TRTFN Health and Social team will be temporarily relocating to a new building and has been planning to ensure smooth service delivery transition. Information sharing and community prioritization sessions have been planned following this transition.

True North Engagement Area

FNHA, NHA and communities have been working together to plan for mental wellness care and initiatives, working within the service delivery area and in conjunction with Yukon Health Services, to meet priorities for assessments and services in community, focusing on psychiatric services, FASD, grief, loss, and trauma.

IHIC

The communities have also been planning for patient journey mapping with NHA and Yukon Health Services to document and examine the patient pathways and experiences in the unique territories that run along the BC/Yukon border and are working with the IHICs to create Tlingit and Kaska wellness phrasebooks.



Health Centre at Daylu Dena