

# TRACKER

Tsay Keh Dene Newsletter

May 2015



During the latter half of March, residents of Tsay Keh may have observed hectic activity at the Blue Maintenance Building. Funding from the Aboriginal Environmental Awareness Capacity and Compliance program paid for materials used in constructing over 60 garbage bins that were placed at residences throughout the community. Under the direction of Counsellor Daniel Pierre, Maintenance Staff and community members designed and built the bins at a ferocious pace and located them at residences.



The bins are expected to provide pest free storage, are dog-proof and accessible for pick up. Tony Chalifoux has already indicated his pleasure and support for the project that has made his tasks much easier. Residents should also remember to store used cooking oils in the bin, rather than flushing such oils and impacting our septic fields. Great work all who participated!!!



Housing & Maintenance crew of Brent Belcourt, Stephen Buerge, and Garrett Pierre making, delivering and installing the new garbage bins around the community.

## From Adi Sulaeman, Executive Director

Welcome to the latest edition of the Tracker newsletter. Many things have happened in the past few months. We have started a new fiscal year with new department budgets that have been well planned out along with a comprehensive work plan for the delivery of programs and services. This planning includes accountability, which is key to keeping things on track, on time and on budget moving forward.

Together we can start building a strong and unified nation, so lets start with building a strong foundation for the future together!

You will have also seen TV's around the community now with a slide show of information on services available to you. As part of this improved communications plan, I will be in Tsay Keh several times with the intent to meet and listen to your ideas, suggestions and concerns. Watch for these dates on the TV's and posters.

Finally, thank you for your feedback on the newsletter. You can email ideas, submissions and requests to Karin at [tracker@tkdb.ca](mailto:tracker@tkdb.ca) Tracker PDF's are on the website as well for your reference.

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## Start Your Own Mini Indoor or Patio Vegetable Garden Today with Container Gardening

Growing fresh vegetables indoors or on your patio/porch is easier than you think! All you need is a container (or containers) that are about one and a half feet deep with good drainage - either holes or a layer of rocks in the bottom. Fill to the top with good soil and make sure it is well soaked. Then, plant your seeds following the directions on the package. You need to keep the soil moist to the touch, being careful to not over water. Keep in the sun on your porch, patio or on a window sill. Remove any weeds that start to help your vegetables grow. Some vegetables, like carrots, may need to be thinned out. It depends on how many seeds you planted to begin with.

Some simple vegetables to start with include carrots, lettuce, beans and peas. Your beans and peas will need some netting for them to grow and climb for support. When selecting your seeds, pick varieties that are good for container growing, they should say this on the package.

Various herbs are also great for growing as well, such as basil, thyme, rosemary, mint and chives. This is a fun and easy activity to do, and simple enough to get your kids excited and involved with. If you are looking for more of a gardening challenge, talk to Helen about helping out in the Police Meadows Garden this spring and summer!

## Health & Wellness Update

The Fishing Lakes Healing Camps for 2015 schedule has been set. For those seeking positive changes to be free from addiction or other life-damaging patterns, Fishing Lakes is a cultural, remote camp surrounded by nature and the beauty of our land. Through one on one counselling and contributing to the work around the camp along with respect for the land and the animals on it, our residents are offered the opportunity to address some of the root causes of pain and brokenness that may be present in our lives. The routine at Fishing Lakes revolves around a structure of counselling, cultural practice, shared meals, stories and interaction with each other. Each participant will receive regular individual sessions with our certified counsellor. If you are interested in attending any of the camps, please contact Jay Brotherton to complete an intake form. You can contact Rowena Izony at the Prince George office for Jay's schedule at 250-562-8882 or email her at Rowena.izony@tkdb.ca

### Fishing Lakes Healing Camp Dates:

June 26 to July 16 - Wellness and Codependency

July 24 to August 6 - Family Violence

August 14 to September 3 - Wellness and Codependency

### Little Eagles Program Improvements Parent Meeting May 26th.

The Community Health & Wellness team is in the process of evaluating some of the child care programs. This is your opportunity to work with us and add valuable input to improve these programs on offer. We invite all parents of children aged 6 and under to come to this meeting and share your ideas and suggestions on what does and does not work.

**May 26th, 12:00 noon to 1:00pm at the AIDP/Little Eagles Building  
Lunch and refreshments will be provided.**

## Introducing Sherri Hunter Employment Coordinator

We are happy to announce that Sherri Hunter is the new employment co-ordinator based in the office in Tsay Keh.

Sherri can help you with skill assessment, job searching and resume writing. Additionally, she can help you with filling out and filing forms for employment insurance, social assistance, child tax benefits, birth certificates, SIN applications, and many others.

You can contact Sherri at the Tsay Keh office at 250-993-2100 or via email at [sherri.hunter@tkdb.ca](mailto:sherri.hunter@tkdb.ca)

## New Liaison with Ministry of Children and Family Development

Linnea Izony is now working with the Health & Wellness team as the new liaison with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. If any members need assistance dealing with the ministry, you can contact Linnea at the Prince George office at 250-562-8882 or email her at [linnea.izony@tkdb.ca](mailto:linnea.izony@tkdb.ca)

# Restorative Justice Society - Sulla Deen Jih

Are you a Tsay Keh Dene Band Member with a willingness to lead, let your voice be heard, can demonstrate a Commitment to Tsay Keh Dene's Health, Culture, Healing and Justice? Can you act in a fair and impartial manner? Then you should put your application in to sit on the Sulla Deen Jih Restorative Justice Society. Please contact Lilian Pierre at: (250) 993-2100 or Terri Turcotte at: (250) 562-8882 for an application and return to Margaret O'Brien, the Community Justice Coordinator when completed via fax at 250-562-8899 or email [margaret.o'brien@tkdb.ca](mailto:margaret.o'brien@tkdb.ca)

# New Indian Registry Agent for Tsay Keh Dene

Linnea Izony has completed her training and will be taking over from Sherri Hunter as the new Indian Registry Agent for Tsay Keh Dene. If you need anything, you can contact Linnea in the Prince George office at 250-562-8882 or email [linnea.izony@tkdb.ca](mailto:linnea.izony@tkdb.ca)

## Education Update

The end of the school year is fast approaching. The last day of school is June 18th. Report Cards will be available for pickup on the 18th of June.

But as there is still some school left, here is a bit of what we have planned. The week of May 4th to May 10th, many students from grades 2 to 7 will be attending a school field trip to Alberta. Some of the fun lined up for them includes exploring Drumheller, the Royal Tyrrell Museum, complete with a sleepover in the hall of Dinosaurs! Then they are off to the Calgary Zoo for more fun and another sleepover in the Safari Exhibit of the Zoo. On the way back, the kids will get some time to explore Jasper, including a picnic lunch on the mountain top after a ride up on the Jasper Sky Tram.

We are in the process of developing a lab for senior science lessons, and a library for the school and community as well. During the week of May 25th, the school will be going through its assessment, and there will be a community dinner on the 26th. Watch for posters with further details.

We would also like to congratulate all the students for their hard work throughout the year and celebrate their accomplishments. There will be a school awards ceremony during the last week of school to recognize our students and their achievements.

Finally, congratulations to all the members that took advantage of the boot camp training in March and April. We awarded a total of over 300 certificates to 70 people that participated in the boot camp. Courses included chainsaw and brushsaw safety, fall protection, bear aware, WHMIS, PAL, S-100, CSTS, TDG, H2S, spill response, and boat pro. Well done everyone on your achievements!

## Land, Resource & Treaty Operations

As of April 1, 2015 the Lands and Resources department has merged with the Treaty team to form a new department within Tsay Keh Dene Nations administrative structure, which is now known as the Lands, Resources and Treaty Operations Department (LRTO). The LRTO Department has recently finalized a new *Work Plan* for fiscal 2015-16, consisting of several exciting new initiatives with a total of 12 programs of which 3 include individual *Work Plans* specific to the program. A budget has been prepared for each program and this is tracked using its own unique code under the LRTO department. Look for updates and more information on all of our new programs at the upcoming *Open House* and find out how you can be involved!

### The LRTO Department consists of the following Programs:

Treaty - Lands - Fish and Wildlife - Environmental Monitoring - Special Projects  
Language and Culture - Director Commitments - Treaty 8 - GIS Analysis  
Referrals - Invoicing and Administration - TRMS

### Your new LRTO Department consists of the following employees:

Director – Luke Gleeson	Coordinator – Kara Jorimann
Treaty Assistant – Jo Ann Belcourt	Elders Advisors – Jean Isaac and Ray Izony
GIS Analyst – Dana Schwehr	Environmental Monitor: TBA
Fish and Wildlife Monitors: Jim Ware and Sheila Pierre	

## Community News

### Luke Gleeson Resignation from Council

Luke Gleeson has stepped down from Council to better focus his time and resources in developing and growing the new Lands, Resource and Treaty Operations department. Additionally Luke has been appointed to the board for the Tsay Keh Development Corporation, which has been tasked with developing the economy of Tsay Keh, which will mean more work opportunities in the future.

### Tsay Keh Open House May 28th

There will be an open house in Tsay Keh at the school Gym. Information from all the departments on the services they offer will be available. Come out and ask you questions. This is your chance to find out the answers.

### Yard Tidy Up Contest! Prizes to Win!

With Spring here, now is the time to work on tidying up the community. You can help by tidying up your yard and possibly win some amazing prizes! Up for grabs is a large screen TV for the best yard, and other prizes as well.



The contest starts on May 10th, and judging will happen on June 10th. That give you 4 weeks to weed, clean, and tidy up your front yard. Perhaps plant some flowers or a container garden (see page 2 for details on how you can do this!). Get out, enjoy the spring sunshine, and help bring a bit of beauty to the community. Contact Daniel Pierre or Stige Hoeg for more details.

### Sekani Week May 19 to 22

Sekani Week is fast approaching, which means Spring is just around the corner. Are you ready to enjoy the great outdoors?



### Upcoming Seasonal Job Opportunities

Below is a list of planned summer and fall job opportunities. If you are interested in applying for one of the jobs listed below, please visit Sherri Hunter in the office to submit your application. You can also email your application to her at [sherri.hunter@tkdb.ca](mailto:sherri.hunter@tkdb.ca)

Farming - 5 positions      Garden - 2 positions  
Sawmill - 3 positions      Community Beautification - 5 positions  
Trail Cutting/Wood Cutting - 5 positions

## Dates to Remember

### May 2015

May 4 - 8 - C&C in Prince George

May 19 - 22 - Sekani Week

May 25 - 29 - Counselor in Tsay Keh

May 25 - Dentist in Kwadacha

May 26 - Little Eagles Parent Meeting

May 26 - Doctor in Kwadacha clinic only

May 28 - Tsay Keh Open House

### June 2015

June 1 - 5 - C&C in Tsay Keh

June 10 - Yard Tidy Up Contest Judging

June 18 - Last Day of School & Report Cards

June 21 - Aboriginal Day

June 22 - 26 - Counselor in Tsay Keh

June 26 - July 16 - Fishing Lakes Camp 1

June 22 - July 24 - Kids Summer Day  
Camps with lots of fun  
activities!

### Band Loan Suspension

With band loans totalling over \$350,000, and ITP accounts receivable over \$420,000 given the financial impact these amounts have on providing services to the community, Chief & Council have decided to suspend band loans for the next six months. If paid pack, this money is enough for several houses and many other much needed services in the community.

In six months time this suspension will be revisited, and if funds are available, loans may be made available again under select criteria. Please watch for a letter from Chief and Council in your mail box regarding this decision.