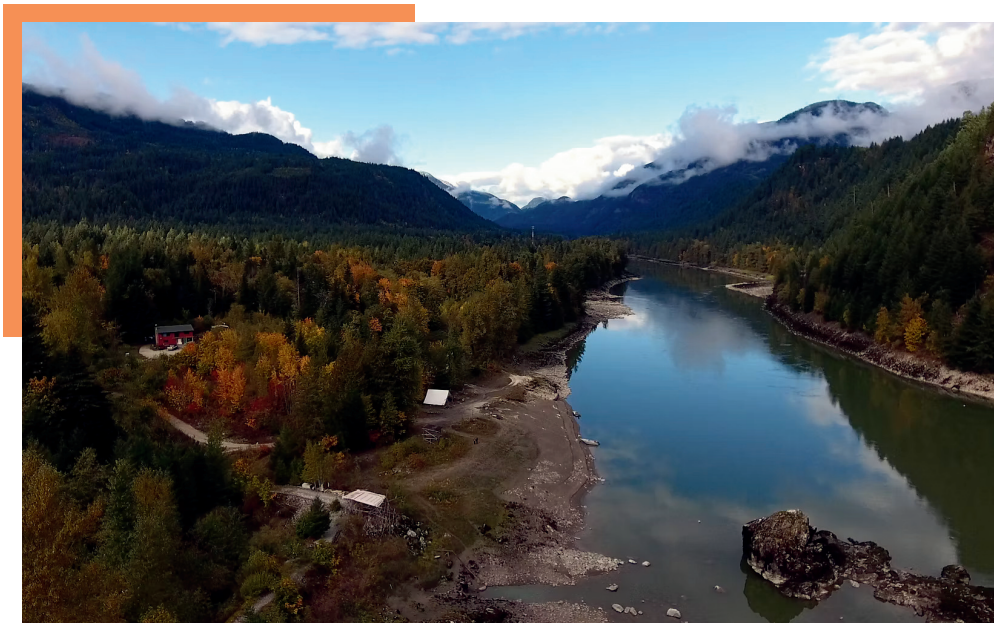
YALE FIRST NATION



FALL NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY • CULTURE • CONNECTION

Welcome to the Fall 2026 edition of the Yale First Nation Newsletter! Inside, you'll find community updates, messages from Chief and Council, highlights from our departments, upcoming events and important dates for the season ahead.

We hope you enjoy catching up on the work, achievements and activities happening throughout our Nation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 30
Orange Shirt Day

October 4
MMIWG2S Awareness Day

October 25
Halloween Party

November 7
Elders Honorary Ceremony

SEPTEMBER 2026
Issue #2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Chief's Message
2. Administration & Council
3. Housing
4. Education
5. Health & Wellness
6. Community Social Work
7. Staff & Community Services

YALE FIRST NATION



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF TROY PETERS

Hello Yale First Nation Members,
I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer and found time to create meaningful memories with family, friends and loved ones. As our children and youth begin another school year, I wish all YFN members and families good health, happiness and strength in the months ahead.

SPECIFIC CLAIMS

Chief and Council continue to work diligently on several Specific Claims. These are complex processes that require patience, dedication and careful consideration.

Specific Claims are about more than legal proceedings or negotiations. They concern our history, the wrongs committed against our Nation and the lasting effects on our people. Lands and opportunities were taken from Yale First Nation, limiting our ability to move safely through our territory and affecting the economic opportunities available to generations of our members.

The most important discussions will be those between Chief and Council and our membership. Compensation for historical wrongs belongs to our people, and decisions about these claims cannot be made by one person or one Council alone. This history belongs to all of us, and our membership must remain at the centre of the process.

FORESTRY TENURE AGREEMENT

I am pleased to announce that Yale First Nation has signed an upgraded Forestry Tenure Opportunity Agreement.

Our previous Non-Replaceable Forest Licence was limited to five years and was scheduled to expire on November 19, 2026. The new agreement provides a 20-year term, giving our Nation greater certainty and more time to build a strong and sustainable forestry future.

This agreement will allow us to strengthen our skills, partnerships, infrastructure and capacity in timber harvesting. Success will require careful planning, collaboration and hard work, but this is an important step toward Yale First Nation actively harvesting timber and creating long-term economic opportunities for our people.



"This work did not begin with us, and it will not end with us."

"We are part of a much longer journey."

"This history belongs to all of us, and our membership must remain at the centre of the process."



PROPOSED NATIONAL INTEREST PIPELINE

Chief and Council have been actively engaged following Prime Minister Mark Carney's July 2 announcement regarding a proposed National Interest Pipeline under the Building Canada Act. The existing Trans Mountain Expansion corridor has been identified as a possible route.

Yale First Nation has made it clear that an existing corridor does not replace the Crown's obligation to meaningfully consult and accommodate our Nation regarding any new project affecting our reserve lands, traditional territory, rights and interests.

Our Nation already carries the cumulative impacts of four pipelines crossing our lands and territory. These impacts continue to affect our rights, safe passage, cultural and ceremonial areas, and our ability to carry forward the teachings of our ancestors.

Chief and Council and our legal team have raised serious concerns about the proposed fast-tracked timeline. Consultation must come first. If Canada and British Columbia benefit from another project using our lands and territory, Yale First Nation must receive meaningful benefits, recognition and fair compensation.

REFLECTING ON THREE YEARS AS CHIEF

It has now been three years since I became Chief. I remain deeply honoured to serve our Nation and grateful for the guidance, support and voices of our membership.

I also acknowledge the Chiefs and Councils, staff and members whose work brought us to where we are today. Our responsibility is to build upon that foundation, strengthen our governance, address today's priorities and protect opportunities for future generations.

This work did not begin with us, and it will not end with us. We are part of a much longer journey, and I will continue carrying this responsibility with pride, respect and commitment to our people.

Chief Troy Peters

"Consultation must come first."

"Our Nation's interests must be recognized and respected."



YALE FIRST NATION



ADMINISTRATION & COUNCIL UPDATE

This summer has been a very busy one from an Administration perspective. A large part of my focus has been supporting our staff, working through staffing and departmental changes, responding to member inquiries, and looking at how we can continue strengthening Yale First Nation's administration.

One thing that has become very clear is that we are growing. More and more members continue to reach out to us and access our programs, services, supports, events, and departments. This is a great thing to see, but with that growth also comes the need to build our internal capacity so that staff can continue providing those services without becoming overwhelmed.

Over the summer, we have been looking closely at our departments, staffing needs, workloads, and where additional support is needed. This has resulted in some changes within departments as well as new and upcoming job postings. The goal is not simply to add positions, but to make sure we are building a stronger structure that can support the Nation as our programs and responsibilities continue to grow.

There has also been a lot of work happening behind the scenes with staff, planning, policies, departmental coordination, member inquiries, funding opportunities, and preparing for the months ahead. We still have work to do, but I am happy to see us continuing to build capacity and strengthen our Administration while keeping member service at the centre of that work.

COUNCIL PORTFOLIO UPDATE

It has also been a busy summer in my role as Councillor, with a strong focus on community programming, food security, infrastructure, and several longer-term projects for Yale First Nation.

"Member service remains at the centre of our work."

"We are planning these spaces with the future growth of our communities in mind."

YALE FIRST NATION
ADMINISTRATION & COUNCIL CONTINUED

FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES

Throughout the summer, I continued supporting food initiatives for our members, including our berry and corn distributions. The veggie bag program will also continue into the fall. A new initiative I am working on for October is meat packs for members, which will provide households with a selection of meat to help with food costs.









MEAT PACKS — DATE AND DETAILS COMING SOON



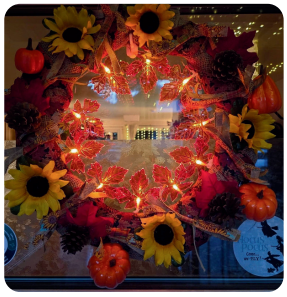
October 25
Halloween Party

November 7
Elders' Honorary Ceremony

Late November
Wreath-Making Workshop



COUNCIL PORTFOLIO UPDATE & UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



Several community events are planned for the fall. Members are invited to join us for the Halloween Party on October 25 and the Elders' Honorary Ceremony on November 7. . Toward the end of November, a Christmas wreath-making workshop for women is also being planned in partnership with the Health Department. This will be an opportunity to gather, visit, get creative, and make a wreath to take home. Additional details will be shared once confirmed.

I also continue to work on the **Stullawheets IR8 Highway 1 Specific Claim.** Claims like this can take many years to work through before they eventually reach negotiations, so this continues to be a long-term file that requires ongoing work and follow-up.



PARK IN LUKSEETSISSUM

Another area we have been working on is creating and improving spaces within our communities. We now have a **park at Lukseetsissum,** and Stullawheets will be on its way to having one as well. We had hoped to begin clearing the land this summer, but with the harsh fire season, we decided it was best to pause the work. We are now hoping to move forward with clearing the land this fall.

We were also fortunate to receive **cultural funding for projects in both Lukseetsissum and Stullawheets.** At Lukseetsissum, the funding will be used to work toward creating **trail access from the Lukseetsissum Community Centre area to Ruby Creek,** helping connect our community space with the land and create another area that members can access and enjoy.



COMMUNITY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Lukseetsissum New Community Park

Stullawheets Park planning underway

Ruby Creek Trail Future trail access being explored



YALE FIRST NATION

YFN HALLOWEEN PARTY!

ALL-AGES COMMUNITY GATHERING

DRESS UP, HAVE FUN & BE PART OF THE FUN!

We're bringing our YFN members and families together for an afternoon of Halloween fun!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Elders, adults, youth, children and little ones!

Yes, adults and staff – dress up too! 😂

ADULTS & STAFF DRESS UP TOO!

AN AFTERNOON FILLED WITH:

- HALLOWEEN GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- COSTUME CONTESTS FOR ALL AGES
- HALLOWEEN MUSIC
- PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS
- SNACKS & TREATS
- A MEAL TOGETHER
- TREAT BAGS FOR THE KIDS

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2026

APPROXIMATELY 1:00 – 5:00 P.M.

CHAWATHIL GYM

LET'S COME TOGETHER FOR A SPOOKTACULAR

AFTERNOON OF FUN, LAUGHTER & COMMUNITY!

MORE DETAILS & REGISTRATION WILL BE SHARED ONCE CONFIRMED.

YALE FIRST NATION

ELDERS' Honorary Ceremony

WE VALUE. WE HONOR. WE CELEBRATE.

We are reaching out to the Elders of Yale First Nation as well as Elders who live in our community, whether or not you are a member,

to invite you to take part in our

Elders' Honorary Ceremony.

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 4:00 PM

LOCATION: CHAWATHIL GYM
#4-60814 Lougheed Highway (Highway 7),
Hope, BC, V0X 1L3

This is a time to recognize, honor, and celebrate the wisdom, strength, and contributions of our Elders. We would be honored by your presence and participation.

To express your interest or for more information,

PLEASE CONTACT:

Email: jpeters@yalefirstnation.ca

Call or Text: 604-206-9971

Facebook: You can reach me on my Facebook

I will also be checking in one-on-one with Elders who may not have access to a phone, social media, or other communication.

We look forward to honoring you.

YALE FIRST NATION

ADMINISTRATION & COUNCIL CONTINUED

For **Stullawheets,** it was decided that the cultural funding would be used to improve the gathering area down at the beach. The plan is to work toward building a **safe and secure outdoor structure for gatherings,** giving members a dedicated place to come together outside and make better use of the beach area for community and cultural activities.

We have also been able to **secure funding toward expanding our community centres.** As Yale First Nation continues to grow and we hold more programs, gatherings, meetings, workshops, and community events, we are finding that we need more space. We are hoping that work on the community centres can begin later this fall or early in the new year.

Planning is also underway for improvements to the **Lukseetsissum Community House.** We would like to make better use of this space for health-related programs and services while still keeping our community kitchen as an important part of the building. We are hoping to begin this work in the new year.

As we look at the expansion of the **Stullawheets Community Centre,** we also need to keep health services in mind. Unlike Lukseetsissum, Stullawheets does not have a second community building that can be used for health programming and services. Because of this, the Stullawheets expansion will likely look a little different and be larger so that we can accommodate health needs while still making sure there is dedicated community centre space for gatherings, programs, events, and activities. We want to plan these spaces with our future growth in mind and make sure they continue to meet the needs of our members for years to come.

Looking ahead, we are also hoping to hold a Y**ale First Nation Open House.** This would be an opportunity for our departments to showcase all of the good work they have been doing, share information about the programs and services available, and give members an opportunity to come in, connect with staff, ask questions, and learn more about what is happening throughout the Nation.

There continues to be a lot happening behind the scenes, and many of these projects take time to plan, find funding for, and move forward. I am looking forward to continuing this work throughout the fall and into the new year and seeing more of these projects and ideas come together for our members and communities.

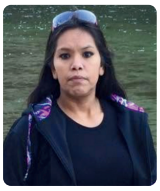
"Bringing members, staff, programs, and services together."

"Planning for community growth and future health needs."

"Creating safe and welcoming spaces for our members to gather."



YALE FIRST NATION



HOUSING DEPARTMENT
KATHERINE GIROUX

As colder weather approaches, the Housing Department will be visiting homes throughout the community to complete seasonal checks and help keep homes safe, comfortable, and prepared for winter.

What We'll Be Checking

- Gutters: Clearing gutters and checking that they are ready for fall and winter weather. Some homes received new gutters over the summer.
- Siding: Inspecting each home for areas that may require attention or repairs before winter.
- Rodent Entry Points: Checking for holes, gaps, and other areas where mice or rodents may enter while looking for warmth.
- Heat Pumps: Inspecting and servicing heat pumps, including changing filters where needed, to help ensure they work properly throughout the winter.
- Chimneys: Checking that chimneys are clean, safe, and ready to use.

These seasonal checks are part of our ongoing efforts to keep community homes safe, comfortable, and well maintained throughout the year.

Maintenance Request Forms

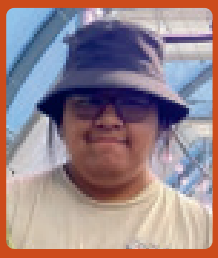
New Maintenance Request Forms are now available online, at each community building, and at the office. Please use these forms to report any maintenance needs or required repairs.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to prepare our homes and community for the colder seasons ahead.

Meet the Housing Team



Noah
Maintenance Assistant



Joshua
Housing Assistant



Brandon
Maintenance Lead

YALE FIRST NATION



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE
JUDITH MORENO / TISHEENA GREENE

The Yale First Nation Education Department is pleased to share the following updates with our membership and community.

Grade 10 and Graduation Progress

Parents and guardians who would like information about their child's grades, GPA or progress toward graduation are welcome to contact the Yale First Nation Education Department.

Please email JudithM@yalefirstnation.ca for assistance. Depending on the student's age and school privacy requirements, the student's consent may be needed before information can be shared.

To receive a B.C. Certificate of Graduation, also known as the **Dogwood Diploma,** students must successfully complete at least **80 course credits,** along with all other provincial graduation requirements. We encourage families to check their child's progress regularly to make sure they are on track to graduate.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION (PSE)

During the 2025-2026 school year, two Yale First Nation members completed their post-secondary education programs. We congratulate each graduate for their hard work, commitment and success.

We are also proud to recognize four Yale First Nation members who graduated from Grade 12. Of these graduates, one will begin post secondary education in September 2026.

The Education Department will continue supporting eligible students with their education and helping them work toward their future goals. PSE applications are available at the office. For assistance, please contact Judith or Tisheena Greene, Yale First Nation's Education Assistant. JudithM@yalefirstnation.ca and/or Tgreene@yalefirstnation.ca

CHECK GRADES, GPA AND GRADUATION PROGRESS

80 COURSE CREDITS REQUIRED FOR A DOGWOOD DIPLOMA

POST-SECONDARY APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE

YALE FIRST NATION

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE CONTINUED

Indigenous Education Committee (IEC)

The Indigenous Education Committee continues to meet and discuss ways to support Yale First Nation students and families. The committee works with schools, parents, guardians and community partners to help improve student attendance, learning and success.

There have been changes to the Indigenous Support Workers (ISWs) at Spirit of Hope Secondary School (S.O.H.S.S.). During the 2025-2026 school year, the ISWs were Caitlin Demmit, Kristie Peters and Jessica Poirier. They have since moved on to other employment opportunities. Additional updates about the ISW positions will be shared in the Winter Newsletter.

ISWs support Indigenous students attending Kindergarten through Grade 12 at Coquihalla Elementary School and S.O.H.S.S. They can assist students with academic courses and advocate for them at school.

SWETEXEL DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL

Swetexel Daycare & Preschool continues to provide a safe, welcoming and supportive place for our children to learn and grow. Staff help children develop important social, emotional, cultural and learning skills while preparing them for kindergarten and school.

The pre-school teacher Robbi McIntosh for pre-k3 & pre-k4 implements graduation for the Pre-K4 children at the end of June to help them transition in a good way into their Kindergarten stages.

YFN's tiny membership still receive priority with the waiting list of getting into the Daycare. You can email Alex Dagnino **alex@empoweredhope.ca** for an application.

Swetexel Daycare & Preschool are in process with having a new signage up at the front with YFN's (Yale First Nation) & GBC (Grace Baptist Church) logos in for partnership.

Yale's had the great privileges with being approached by ELCC (Early Learning and Childhood Care) grant to help out with the costs of fixtures at the daycare and also helps with the costs from 0-6 years old. We thank the Swetexel staff, families and community members for their continued support of our children.

SUPPORTING STUDENT ATTENDANCE, LEARNING AND SUCCESS

PRE-K3 AND PRE-K4 PROGRAMS AT SWETEXEL

YFN MEMBERS RECEIVE PRIORITY ON THE DAYCARE WAITING LIST



YALE FIRST NATION

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE CONTINUED

Indigenous Skills Training and Education (ISTE)

The Education Department is happy to announce that Yale First Nation applied for funding through the Indigenous Skills Training and Education Program and was approved.

From September 2026 to March 31, 2027, the Education Department will be offering workshops and learning opportunities that may include:

- Ribbon skirt making
- Cedar weaving
- Language learning, including possible online or hybrid sessions
- Traditional plant knowledge and education
- Driver's education
- Learner's licence knowledge-test preparation
- New driver information and driving practice

These workshops will support cultural learning, practical skills, confidence and connections within the community.

Workshop dates, times, locations and registration information will be shared with membership as they become available. Some workshops may be held during evenings or weekends to make it easier for members and community participants to attend.

It seems that thus far, membership have approached with weekdays in the evenings. This can be good for the ribbon shirt and ribbon skirt making along with cedar weaving and traditional plant education, but with he driver education, it will most likely go accordingly to the driver's educator's schedule. **The Driver Instructor is Jim Harris from Seabird Island.**

CHECK GRADES, GPA AND GRADUATION PROGRESS

80 COURSE CREDITS REQUIRED FOR A DOGWOOD DIPLOMA

POST-SECONDARY APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE









YALE FIRST NATION

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE CONTINUED

JIM HARRIS DRIVER INSTRUCTOR / INFORMATION

Jim offers lessons for Class 7L, Class 5 and unrestricted Class 4. Class 7L and Class 5 lessons are offered by the hour, while unrestricted Class 4 lessons are two hours. Jim will also be offering classes for people who would like to prepare for their knowledge test.

Before taking driving lessons, students must have the appropriate learner's licence for the class they are pursuing. Jim will go to wherever the student is to pick them up for their driving lessons. Jim can pick students up for lessons, but **students are responsible for booking their own road tests.**

If members require transportation to Lukseetsissum for driving education, please provide at least one week's notice so arrangements can be made. Once the pickup and return schedule is confirmed, no additional stops can be accommodated. When multiple members are scheduled, passengers may need to wait until the other lesson is finished.

Class 4 (unrestricted)

Buses with a maximum seating capacity of 25 persons (including the driver), including school buses, special activity buses and special vehicles used to transport people with disabilities.

Taxis and limousines
Ambulances
Any motor vehicle or combination vehicles in class 5.

LESSONS AVAILABLE FOR CLASS 7L, CLASS 5 AND CLASS 4 UNRESTRICTED

KNOWLEDGE-TEST PREPARATION AVAILABLE

ONE WEEK'S NOTICE REQUIRED FOR TRANSPORTATION





YALE FIRST NATION

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE CONTINUED

Transportation may also be available for members living in **Chilliwack, Abbotsford or Vancouver.** Please share the activity you would like to attend and the days that best suit your availability.

Language classes may be offered virtually. Assistance may be available to help members access the classes using their phones.

We look forward to a busy and positive year of learning. **Congratulations to all our students and graduates,** and thank you to the families, staff, Elders, knowledge keepers and community partners who continue to support education at Yale First Nation.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY
NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

On September 30, Yale First Nation will recognize **Orange Shirt Day** and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

YYale First Nation will be working with **Chawathil First Nation, Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation and Vanessa Hope, School District 78's Indigenous Support Worker team lead.** To honour residential school Survivors, their families and the children who never returned home.

The Yale First Nation office will be closed on **September 30**. Staff will be assisting with the event and setting up Yale First Nation's tents and lawn chairs, including a comfortable and welcoming seating area for Yale Elders.

Community members are encouraged to wear orange and join us in honouring the message that **Every Child Matters.**
Additional information about the time and location will be shared with membership when available.



VOTE FOR NEW ORANGE SHIRT DESIGN!





YALE FIRST NATION | EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

September 2026 - March 31, 2027

FOR YALE FIRST NATION MEMBERSHIP & NON-MEMBERSHIP COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We want to hear from you!

Help shape upcoming cultural, language and driver-preparation workshops.
Tell us what interests you and which days and times work best for you.



RIBBON SHIRTS & SKIRTS

Learn ribbon shirt and ribbon skirt making, including practical sewing, creativity and cultural teachings.

CEDAR WEAVING

Explore cedar weaving and learn about its cultural importance through hands-on community-based learning.

LANGUAGE LEARNING

Help expand our language program. Hybrid options may include in-person and virtual / online sessions.

TRADITIONAL PLANT MEDICINES

Learn about traditional plant medicines, their cultural significance and respectful knowledge-sharing.

L **N**

LEARNER'S & NEW DRIVER KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE

L: Learner's knowledge-test information and preparation.
N: New-driver road-test information, practice and confidence-building.

WHAT TIMES WORK BEST FOR YOU?

Share your preferred workshop topics, days and times:

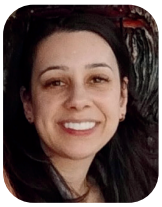
WEEKDAY EVENINGS | WEEKENDS | OTHER TIMES

Please let the Yale First Nation Education Department know what you recommend.

YOUR VOICE WILL HELP GUIDE OUR WORKSHOP SCHEDULE.

Yale First Nation Education Department | (604) 869-0013

YALE FIRST NATION



HEALTH & WELLNESS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

PAMELA KALIA | HEALTH MANAGER

Wildfire Support

We provided wildfire support at Stullawheets on August 1, 2, and 3. It was wonderful to spend time with everyone who stopped by and to be able to offer support during such a difficult time.

Through the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), we were able to obtain more than 25 air purifiers and air cleaners. These were distributed to Elders and other community members who were more vulnerable to the effects of wildfire smoke and lived in the affected areas.

A big thank you to our Maintenance Team for helping deliver most of the air purifiers, and to Peter and Takoda for building the DIY box air cleaners. We really appreciate everyone who helped make sure these supports reached the people who needed them.



Wildfire Support at Stullawheets

25+ AIR PURIFIERS Distributed to Elders and vulnerable community members

THANK YOU Maintenance Team, Peter and Takoda

YALE FIRST NATION

HEALTH & WELLNESS DEPARTMENT UPDATE CONTINUED

Workshops Are Starting Again!

After our summer break, workshops and group activities will begin again this month.

Thank you to Brandon for continuing monthly men's group meetups for Lukseetsissum and Stullawheets throughout the summer.









Keep an eye out for the monthly posters for our **Women's Group, Youth Group, and Men's Group.** We have some fun activities planned and look forward to getting together again!

Massage Therapy

Massage therapy with Camelia has been a huge success! Appointments at both locations have been fully booked.

Camelia is able to see four people per day, and because there has been so much interest, we have asked her to come more frequently. She will now be visiting **each location twice a month.**

Please watch for posters with upcoming dates and booking information.





WORKSHOPS & GROUP ACTIVITIES Returning this month

WATCH FOR MONTHLY POSTERS
Women's Group
Youth Group
Men's Group

MASSAGE THERAPY
Now twice a month at each location



YALE FIRST NATION

HEALTH & WELLNESS DEPARTMENT UPDATE CONTINUED

Medical Transportation

Our Medical Transportation Program has also been busier than usual, and we are happy to see so many community members accessing this service.

At this time, we have one **Band driver (Connie)** available for medical transportation. Because of the number of requests we receive, we may not always be able to guarantee transportation for every appointment, although we will always do our best to accommodate as many people as possible. We always encourage booking as soon as you can as it can be hard to fit in last minute requests.

We greatly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding when scheduling is tight.

We recognize that medical appointments can sometimes be difficult to obtain or reschedule, so we will always work with you as much as we can to find the best possible option.

If transportation through the Band is not available and you drive yourself, or someone else drives you to an eligible medical appointment, medical travel reimbursement may be available.

Please remember that we require a letter or confirmation of attendance from your medical appointment in order to process a reimbursement.

If you have questions about transportation or reimbursement requirements, please contact the Health Department.



COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION & OUTINGS
CONNIE | BAND DRIVER

Hello everyone, I hope you had a summer full of fun and adventure. It is always a busy time of year, and this one was no exception.

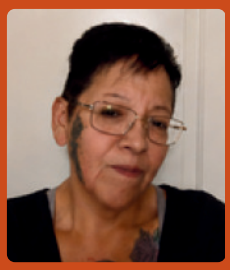
One of our highlights was a wonderful trip to Playland, where many members joined us for a fun-filled day of laughter and plenty of excited screams. Some of those rides really take your breath away. I was also able to go to my first-ever Elders Gathering in Vancouver, it was such a great time. Bands came all the way from Fort St. John, a 15-hour bus ride. We stayed at the Pan Pacific, and the accommodations, meals and views of the ocean were amazing. We saw a lot of cruise ships coming into Port, and the weather was perfect.

Fishing season has kept me very busy this year. With sockeye so abundant, I hope families were able to fill their canning jars and freezers.
We also hired several members to help monitor the fishery while it was open. It was great to see younger members earning money, learning how the fishing season works, and supporting the community while giving our elders a chance to sit back and enjoy it.

After a hectic summer filled with fires and smoke that made it difficult to breathe, fall will be a welcome change with its clean, crisp air.
I am looking forward to the outings and programs planned for the upcoming season, and to spending more time with members. That's it for me now, take care!

Thank you, Connie!

BOOK EARLY
Transportation cannot always be guaranteed



Jody
Homecare Worker

REIMBURSEMENT
Appointment confirmation is required



YALE FIRST NATION

HEALTH & WELLNESS DEPARTMENT UPDATE CONTINUED

Understanding FNHA Health Funding & Individual Benefits

We sometimes receive questions about the difference between FNHA funding provided to us for health programs and FNHA Health Benefits available to individual clients.

Community Health Funding

These funds may support areas such as:

- Primary health care, community nursing and Community Health Representatives
- Children, youth and family health programs
- Mental wellness and substance use supports
- Healthy living and chronic disease prevention
- Diabetes prevention and management
- Health promotion and wellness initiatives
- Food security and other community health programs
- Medical transportation and other approved health services

These funds are provided for designated health programs and services and must be used according to the requirements of the applicable FNHA funding agreement or program authority. They are not a general pool of money that can automatically be provided directly to individuals.

Individual FNHA Health Benefits

FNHA also administers Health Benefits for eligible First Nations clients through the Pacific Blue Cross. These are separate from the funding that communities receive to operate health programs.

Depending on eligibility and benefit requirements, individual FNHA Health Benefits may include:

- Dental care
- Vision care
- Prescription drugs and pharmacy benefits
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Medical transportation
- Mental health counselling and other eligible supports

Coverage varies depending on the service, and some benefits may require prior approval, a prescription, referral, or other documentation.
If you are unsure whether something is covered through an individual FNHA Health Benefit or through one of our community health programs, please reach out to the Health Department. We are happy to answer any questions and point you in the right direction.

Thank you to everyone for your continued patience, participation, and support. We are looking forward to another busy season of activities, appointments, and opportunities to connect with the community.

Pamela Kalia, Health Manager

FNHA NURSE AMANDA
Every Thursday
10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Stullawheets
1–3 p.m.
Lukseetsissum

Upcoming Events

MMIW and Keeping our Families Safe Awareness seminars
October 17 & 24

DECEMBER
Candlelight Vigil & Dinner



YALE FIRST NATION



COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
PAUL KELLER | SOCIAL WORKER

Roles and Responsibilities

- Child Protection and Prevention

Child Protection:	*Prevention Services:*
• Working with family to ensure your rights are protected and you are supported	• Supporting families to address family stressors, promote child well-being and safety

At any time while involved with Children and Family Services, you can reach out to the Community Social Work Department for support, guidance and/or advocacy.

- **Income Assistance (Indigenous Services Canada)**
  - *Monthly financial and employment support (in-community 19+)*
- **Community Social Development Funding Initiatives**
  - *Funding initiatives addressing individual, family and/or community well-being needs (in-outside community)*

Fairwell and Good Luck, Steph!



Steph and Lorretta

Stephanie Shamji, our Community Social Work Assistant, is returning to university, bringing her part-time employment with YFN to an end. It has been a privilege to work with Steph as she brought her significant previous work experience into this role while also demonstrating the ability to build meaningful relationships with the people she served. She approached her work with genuine care, compassion, and a willingness to connect with others.

We wish you all the best as you return to university and continue on your journey. I have no doubt that you will carry these same qualities with you wherever you go.

Community Social Work Initiatives

- **Fish Ceremonies at Lukseetsissum and Stullawheets**
  2 Fish Ceremony events were held at each of the communities of Lukseetsissum and Stullawheets. Thank you to all the organizers and volunteers 😊

CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT
Guidance, advocacy and prevention services

INCOME ASSISTANCE
For eligible in-community members age 19+

THANK YOU, STEPH!
Best wishes as you return to university

YALE FIRST NATION

COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

- **Playland**

Attendees: *Elders-11, Adults–32, Child/Youth–25 =* ***68***

A special thank you to Steph and Connie (staff), and to all the amazing parents who helped make this event so wonderful! Your time, energy, and support made a big difference. Hope to see you next year at the PNE!

A special note to Elder, Anna Phillips for making the most of life having gone on the Sea to Sky Swinger ride.



Katherine and Anna

- **Matriarch/Elder Meetings**

A place where your voice is heard, support is available, and your guidance matters. Much of the work in the Community Social Work Department is informed by YFN Elders.

- ✓ Online video option available
- ✓ 22 members
- ✓ Ages 55+

- **Community Garden Bed Program**

Winners of Garden Bed Contest:

Trish Moreno, Noah Giroux-Natrall, Larry Hope

This year 8 new garden beds were added around the 4 and 6-plex residential units.





Janeen and Callie

- **Fraser Valley Regional Library**
  - ✓ In-community monthly
  - ✓ Connecting members to library services
  - ✓ Books, Computers, Tablet or Cellular Phone support

During the summer holidays Callie and her Papa joined us being the first child to ever attend 😊

Contact Information: Community Social Worker Paul Keller
pkeller@yalefirstnation.ca | 604-206-8246

PLAYLAND
68 community members attended

MATRIARCH & ELDER MEETINGS
22 members
Ages 55+
Online option available

8 NEW GARDEN BEDS
Added around the 4- and 6-plex residential units

YALE FIRST NATION

COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

Getting to Know... Yale First Nation Members

Meet Elder David Moreno...

Elder David Moreno is an active and valued member of the community, often present at YFN events, gatherings, and initiatives. He is a familiar and dependable presence and never missing an Elders meeting.

David is married to Angela Moreno and is deeply involved in the lives of his children and grandchildren. His commitment to family and community reflects the care and connection he brings to everything he is involved in.



Dave 19 yrs. old – 1983 Dave today 😊

If you would like to share a bit about yourself with the Nation, please connect

Pkeller@yalefirstnation.ca

It is a privilege to serve the YFN Nation and to support the many community-led initiatives, activities, programs, and services that bring our community together.

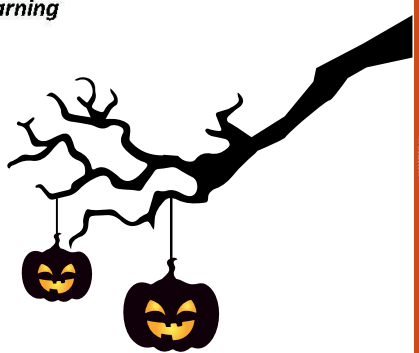
Thank you to everyone for your continued involvement, encouragement, and support. Your participation and dedication help make our community stronger.

Paul J. Keller, BSW
Yale First Nation
Community Social Worker
314 Hudson Bay St.
Hope, BC V0X – 1L0
Off. (604) 869 – 0013 Cel. (604) 206 – 8246 Fax. (604) 869 – 0053
Pkeller@yalefirstnation.ca

Purposely Living, Loving, Laughing and Learning







GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Elder David Moreno

SHARE YOUR STORY
Contact Paul Keller
pkeller@yalefirstnation.ca



YALE FIRST NATION

STAFF AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



Welcome to the YFN Team

Tiernan Short

Yale First Nation is pleased to welcome Tiernan Short as our new Reception and Communications Assistant.

Tiernan will support front-desk reception, member inquiries, community notices and posters, website updates, social media, and other communication needs. As he settles into his new position, he will be training alongside Tisheena and learning about the daily operations of the YFN office, its departments, programs, and services.

We appreciate everyone's patience while Tiernan becomes familiar with his new responsibilities. Please join us in giving him a warm welcome—we are happy to have him on the YFN team!



FIRESMART & WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

Daryl Hansen

It has felt like a long summer with the heat and part of our communities being on evacuation alert. It has been an extremely busy fire season, and I am very thankful for the cooler weather coming with the fall season.

We have finally received our FireSmart grants and have been busy planning to start the work moving forward. Starting mid-September, we will begin the process with danger tree assessments around all community members' houses that have not been completed this year. This work will run into the new year as we prepare our communities for future fire seasons.

I am very excited to get back into the community and get some work done! We will also be working on organizing different training opportunities for members who may want to participate, possibly focusing on our wildfire mitigation trailers, pumps, and hoses.

Thank you all for the continued support throughout the years. I look forward to seeing everyone out and about while we are working.

Thank you,

Daryl Hansen

WELCOME TIERNAN Reception & Communications Assistant

FIRESMART WORK Beginning mid-September

MEMBER TRAINING Opportunities involving trailers, pumps and hoses

YALE FIRST NATION



WATER QUALITY & WELL TESTING UPDATE

Talon Coghill

The 2026 bacteriological sample results for YFN water distribution systems showed zero E. coli exceedances and zero total coliform exceedances.

I recently completed the first round of chemical and bacteriological testing with FNHA Health Officer Mark Turner for wells owned by members. A second round of well testing is planned for the wells we were unable to reach.

For example, chemistry testing is normally done at the beginning of a well installation and for the following 2 years to analyze any possible changes. I do these chemical tests quarterly and bacteriological testing weekly (4 times per month per guideline).

2026 Bacteriological Testing Summary

Water system	Samples analyzed	E. coli exceedances	Total coliform exceedances
Lukseetsissum	70	0	0
Stullawheets	71	0	0
Yale Main	70	0	0
YFN total	**211**	**0**	**0**

All 211 samples met bacteriological guidelines, with no E. coli or total coliform exceedances reported.

211 SAMPLES ANALYZED
Across three YFN water systems

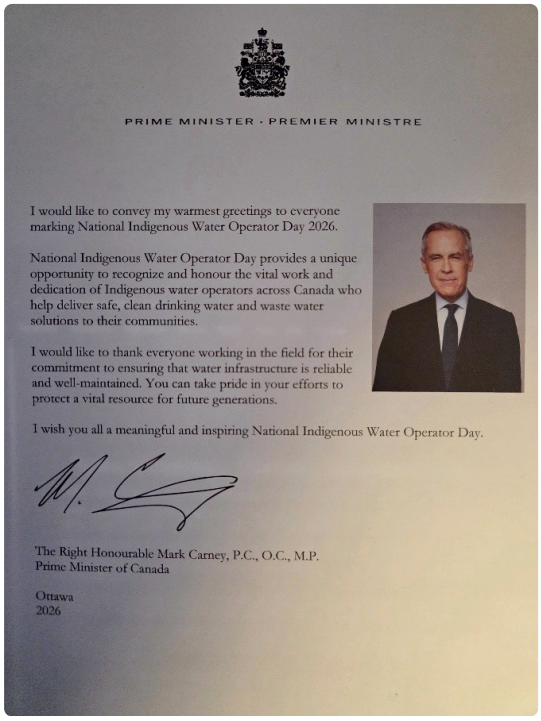
0 E. COLI EXCEEDANCES

0 TOTAL COLIFORM EXCEEDANCES

YALE FIRST NATION

WATER QUALITY & WELL TESTING UPDATE CONTINUED

I also completed Water courses 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040 and 1050. My certification will be mailed to me, and I will share it once it arrives. Thank you.



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to everyone marking National Indigenous Water Operator Day 2026.

National Indigenous Water Operator Day provides a unique opportunity to recognize and honour the vital work and dedication of Indigenous water operators across Canada who help deliver safe, clean drinking water and waste water solutions to their communities.

I would like to thank everyone working in the field for their commitment to ensuring that water infrastructure is reliable and well-maintained. You can take pride in your efforts to protect a vital resource for future generations.

I wish you all a meaningful and inspiring National Indigenous Water Operator Day.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., O.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Ottawa
2026





EOCP

CERTIFICATE of QUALIFICATION

Environmental Operators Certification Program

This is to certify that:

Theodore Coghill

By examination has qualified as a

Small Water System Operator

CHAIR, BOARD of DIRECTORS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Certification No. 1002650
Valid until: 31 December 2026

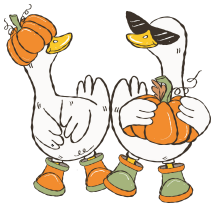
A society incorporated under the Society Act, S.B.C. S-28724

WATER COURSES
1010–1050
completed

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION
Small Water System Operator

CONTINUED TRAINING
Supporting safe community water systems

YALE FIRST NATION



We would also like to recognize the important work taking place in departments not featured elsewhere in this issue.



Fisheries Manager
Dominic Hope



Finance
Cathy Speth



Economic Development Officer
Sarah



Elder in Residence
Cathy Hope



Food Sovereignty & Community Greenhouse

Janice Hope
Greenhouse Support

Charmaine Anderson
Greenhouse Manager

Thank you for your continued dedication and for the valuable services and support you provide to Yale First Nation members and communities. We look forward to sharing more department updates in future issues.

BEHIND THE SCENES
Important work continues across every department

THANK YOU
To all YFN staff for supporting our members

