

SPRING NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Yale First Nation



Xwóxwelá:lhp

Together we pave a path for our future generations.

RECEPTION

TISHEENA GREENE

Indian Registration

Education Assistant

My name is Tisheena Greene, and I serve as the receptionist for the Yale First Nation office.

In addition, my role as receptionist, I am the Indian Registered Administrator (IRA) responsible for issuing new Status cards or renewals.

If you need assistance with status card registration or any related services, please feel free to contact me to schedule an appointment, please get in touch with me by calling the office or emailing me.

Since February 2025, I have been working within the Education Department as an Education Assistant.

Thank you, and I look forward to assisting you.



In my free time I like to crochet, my latest project is a C2C blanket, as well as headbands and scrunchies. I have also crocheted toques and scarves.

Contact Info

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WATER MAINTAINANCE

TALON COGHILL



Water | General Maintenance

Hello Yale First Nation members and staff. As you may know I've been working on the YFN maintenance team for 2 years now. I have lived on reserve for many years and seeing our nation grow and develop is great. Increases in accessibility, resources and opportunities.

Maintenance will now be led by Brandon. I have worked with Brandon for many months, and he has earned my trust as a coworker, member and individual. Seeing his effort and value to our elders and youth has already positively impacted our community and he is a great addition to our team and community. So, this means I will no longer be our main contact for maintenance.

I have recently as of March become our nation's main water operator, I will still be doing maintenance, but my priority will be water operations. What does this entail? It means that I will be working for our nation under contract to provide potable water to our community buildings, greenhouse and home connections.

Potable Water: What it Means

Potable Water is water that is safe for ingestion, also may be known as safe or clean drinking water. The term is simple but how we get there requires infrastructure, resources and training.

As the water operator I work with Mark Turner, Environmental Health Officer to ensure water samples are taken according to Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines standards. I also work with the Circuit Rider Bruce that is contracted by ISC to assist many nations with repairs, training and maintenance to our water system.

As water operator I work according to Yale, FNHA, provincial and local water guidelines. I will inform, listen and work accordingly. If you have water related questions you can send me an email.

Turn page for more....

I will also be present at our next band meeting, so members will be able to ask me questions in our Q&A period.

Soon I will connect with voluntary members to do water testing and samples at individual's homes. For daily water testing I use a colorimeter and a reagent that allows me to measure chlorine levels. For water sampling I fill a container that has a chlorine neutralizer. I send these samples to a lab to test for bacteria such as e-coli. These samples are sent off 4 times per month which comes out to once a week sampling.

Ideal Water

I have previously submitted a FNHA sponsored program called Flush Until Cold initiative. This initiative is to make sure the water for ingestion is fresh. The water in pipes can sometimes sit and warm up to ambient pipe temperatures. It's best to run water for 15 seconds or until water is cold for the cleanest water.

Pools

Let me know if you want any assistance this year with filling your pool or chlorinating your pool. Water is a precious resource, and I kindly ask that you request my assistance so we can conserve our precious water and reduce water loss due to leaks, multiple fillings or lack of cleaning/ chlorinating.

-Talon Coghill YFN Water Operations/Maintenance

Contact Info

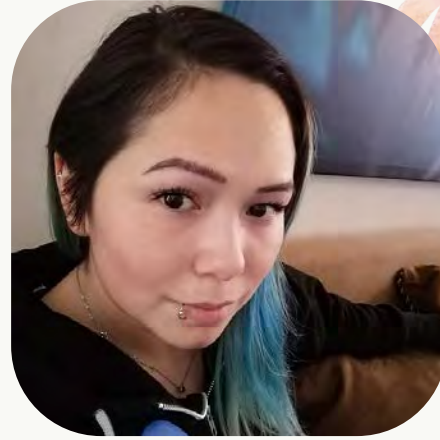
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COUNCILLOR JUDITH MORENO

Post Secondary | Health

Portfolio

- Education
- Wellness
- Swetexel Daycare/Preschool



Spring season is here, the birds are chirping in the mornings, and flowers are blooming. Spring break is over, and the children are back to school learning. Hockey season is now done, so my weekends are now open.

Swetexel Daycare and Preschool and YFN staff are eager to announce that we have a Halq'em'elem teacher who is Sophia Moreno, she will hopefully be starting on Mondays with Swetexel IT (infant toddler) side for 20 minutes than to the 3-5 side daycare for another 20 minutes than to the pre-K side for another 20 minutes. They are small children that probably won't like sitting for no more than 20 minutes at a time. Sophia will be starting out with Halq'em'elem with farm animals and maybe even ending with a help clean up song in Halq'em'elem. Starting to plan for parent's engagement with their children. Will like to start in the morning preferably hopefully before the children catch the bus. Can start out with pancake breakfast with a beverage of juice and/or milk. Also, if the parent's have questions about the Education Department with Post Secondary or with any other updates, I will do my best to answer your questions. I will be arranging for both locations of Lukseetsissum & Stullawheets but on different days. Tisheena is in training for the Education Department.

YFN representatives have been in meetings with Monica Florence who is holding these meetings and reached out to all nations from upper Stolo. Chawathil, Skawahlook, Shxwowhamel, Yale and SD 78- Native Education are partnering up to bring MMIWG2S march will be held May 5, on Monday.

Turn page for more.....

YFN has students that will be graduating in 2025.

Tisheena and I will be in Lukseetsissum and Stullawheets soon starting to engage to our youth and elders. With pancake breakfasts before the buses arrive for the children's departure. We will also answer any education related concerns that you may have, if we do not have the answer, we will write your concerns down and update you by the end of that following week.

For the Health & Wellness Department, YFN is strongly encouraging for medical transportation please call our acting Band Administrator Janita a week before your appointments to plan accordingly. Until the YFN's vacancies are full, we have asked First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to help us with medical situations and workshops.

- **Post Secondary Education (PSE) Submission Main Deadline is April 1st. 2025**
- **Supplement Deadline: October 15th. 2025**
- **Email me for PSE applications.**



MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WALK
STARTS AT 10 AM - 6TH AVE BALL PARK TO HOPE MEMORIAL PARK
EVERYONE WELCOME!

WEAR RED AND/OR REGALIA
PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AT
BANDSTAND AFTER WALK. LIGHT LUNCH
PROVIDED, BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR

In Partnership:



This sacred artwork now belongs to the Nation, a gift from spirit through the hands of a dedicated community member.

Contact Info

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COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

PAUL KELLER



Roles and Responsibilities...

Child Protection and Prevention

- Support and advocacy for Children and Family

Income Assistance

- Monthly financial and employment support (on-reserve 19+)

Community Social Development Funding Initiatives

- Funding opportunity initiatives addressing individual and community need (on-off reserve)

Ongoing Community Social Work Activities...

- Matriarch/Elder Support - Monthly Meetings; A place where your voice is heard, and your guidance is needed 55+

Elders in Vancouver at the Planetarium

- Fraser Valley Regional Library Tutoring - Janeen Parent is on site monthly to connect members to library services and/or help you with your computer, tablet, and/or Cellular phone literacy.



- Community Garden/Orchard Initiative

Annual Outdoor Gardening Club is open to all community members.

Beginning soon!

Turn page for more....

Past Community Happenings...

- Matriarch/Elder's Trip (Vancouver Planetarium and Hoobiye)
- Harrison Light Tour and Dinner
- Matriarch/Elder Jackets presented to 5 new participants
- Vancouver YFN member day-visit luncheon at Kyles Restaurant
- In progress - Ribbon Skirt making with Linda Kay Peters

University of the Fraser Valley – Social Work Student...

• Social Work Student, Vanessa Jones has been gaining practicum work experience within the Community Social Work Department. Vanessa is in her 3rd year of the Social Work Degree Program. Vanessa has shown a natural ability to connect in a meaningful way with YFN members. Her practicum will end April 17th, 2025, when she will continue with her 4th year studies. All the best 😊



Angela at 14 yrs.

Sharing YFN Stories...

Meet Yale First Nation Elder, Angela Moreno. Angela resides with her husband, David Moreno on YFN lands at Lukseetsissum. Angela is an integral member of the community, rarely missing an event or opportunity to contribute.



Angela today

If you have a story and photo you'd like to share with your Nation, please connect with Paul Keller.

There are two YFN Community Centre's on Hwy #7 Lukseetsissum and Hwy #1 Stullawheets as well as the Band Office in Hope, BC to serve membership.

If you are living on-off site and in need of support or would like to be a part of a particular group or activity noted above, please get in touch with Community Social Worker, Paul Keller.

It is a privilege to serve YFN Nation focusing on various aspects of "community" lead supports, activities, and services. Thank - you to all!

Contact Info

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COUNCILLOR

JANITA PETERS

Portfolio

- Community Social Work
- Food Sovereignty
- Housing
- Administration



Ey swayel,

I'd like to take a moment to share some updates on the ongoing work I've been involved in on behalf of Yale First Nation.

As part of our Community Comprehensive Planning (CCP) project, I continue to work closely with our mentor Shirley Patt. We are planning an Elders Meet & Greet with her at the end of May to ensure our elders' voices are heard in the planning process.

We're also preparing for our upcoming Band Meeting on Saturday, May 24th, where we will be reviewing the 2024/2025 audit. In addition, our departments will be introducing themselves and sharing more about the programs and services they offer to members. In the background, we continue to work diligently on submitting previously unreported reports, making steady progress toward full compliance.

I've also continued working alongside Michael from the First Nations Financial Management Board (FMB) to guide staff in developing their departmental budgets and work plans. We are also reviewing and refining our policies—including the Financial Administration Law, HR, Governance, Information Management, and Work Policy. Once we've finalized the drafts, we look forward to sharing them with you, our membership, for feedback before Chief and Council give the final approval.

We are currently facing vacancies in our health department, and I am actively working with FNHA to bring in a nurse to provide support and ensure continuity of care for our members.

Turn page for more.....

And now for some exciting news—we are in the process of securing funding for two new community play parks and cemented sports areas in both of our main communities! Once funding is confirmed, we will begin the planning phase with our children and families, ensuring this space is created with their voices and needs at the forefront. As we grow in our culture and community, we are also looking ahead physically. We are actively seeking funding to expand our community centres, making them more accommodating for larger gatherings, ceremonies, and celebrations that bring us together as a people. These spaces hold our laughter, our teachings, and our healing—so it's important we nurture them just as we do our spirit and culture.

A Personal Reflection

On a personal note, I recently completed my first cohort of Halq'eméylem language learning, which began in September 2024 and wrapped up this past February. This journey has been nothing short of transformative. To speak the language of my ancestors, to hear the rhythm of our stories in our original tongue—it stirred something deep within me. It reminded me of who I am, where I come from, and the responsibility I carry as both a learner and a leader.

There was a profound sense of belonging that came with each word spoken, a spiritual connection to the land, to my family, and to all those who walked before us. I hold hope and excitement for the next cohort starting in the fall of 2025, and I look forward to continuing the path of revitalizing our language—so long as it aligns with my ongoing responsibilities to our Nation.

With Gratitude

I am truly grateful to be part of the many beautiful moments of growth we've been experiencing within our Nation. Words can hardly express how proud I am of our people. Thank you for allowing me to witness your journey, your strength, and your unwavering spirit. No matter what challenges we face, we continue to rise—together. We hold each other up, we support one another, and through that unity, our strength only grows. It is an honor to walk this path with all of you.

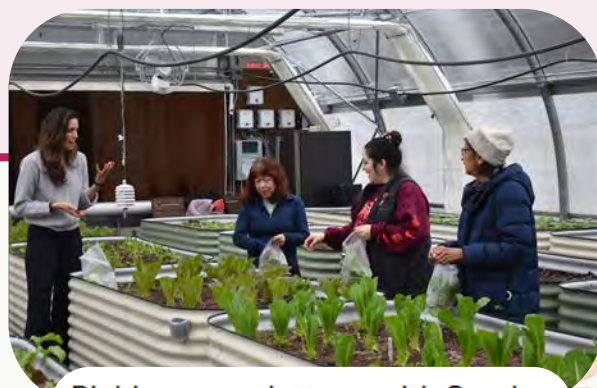
Thank you for your continued support and trust. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Band Meeting on May 24th.

Yalh yexw kw'es hoy

Contact Info

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Picking some lettuce with Sarah, Janice, and Cathy.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY DEPARTMENT SARAH BELAIR-BERGMAN

**Greenhouse
Manager**

**TLU (Traditional Land Use)
Coordinator**

Spring is in full swing, and so are we! We've started filling up all of our planter beds with a bounty of nourishing plants—carrots, beets, radishes, turnips, lettuce, stinging nettle, and beans. Our team is also busy growing seedlings for the community gardens as well as for the School District's Garden Program.

Every Wednesday, we host volunteer days in the greenhouse. Perry builds a cozy fire, and we welcome everyone to come out, lend a hand, and enjoy the space together. Whether you're planting, learning, or just soaking in the warmth, there's always room for you. Please reach out to Sarah if you would like to join us!



*Cathy's soup with Kale grown in
the greenhouse*

Turn page for more....

We're also excited to launch our Food Preservation Workshop Series, focusing on each of the vegetables we grow in the greenhouse. The first one kicks off this Thursday, April 17th—don't miss it! We will be canning tomatoes grown in the greenhouse. It's a great way to build skills, connect with community, and make the most of the harvest.

See you in the greenhouse!



Peg's Nettle Tea with Nettle from the Greenhouse



Loretta & Perry on Volunteer Day



Perry Hope with Fire he built at the Greenhouse

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RIBBON SKIRT WORKSHOP



FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

DOMINIC HOPE

At this time of year, we would be expecting the migration of Eulachon to parts of the Lower Fraser. If high enough of an abundant return, the Lower Fraser First Nations have an understanding and arrangement in place to receive some Eulachon to share within respective communities from those that have immediate and ongoing access to these. To date, the returns and catches have been very low. However, the main Eulachon fishing communities ie: Katzie and Kwantlen are optimistic that the catches will pick up Mid April. If this unfolds as anticipated, then YFN may receive a portion of Katzie catch to share within our community. Elders will receive a feed or a meal worth if enough to go around. If a bit more than that will result in further distribution in the community. Please inform if you would like to receive Eulachon if available and even inform if you would like to pass on this opportunity. Keep in touch as catches come randomly and I will be called to pick some up on short notice.

Chinook

There continues to be conservation concerns with the Early migrating Chinook (referred to as Spring 4(2), Spring 5(2) and Summer 5(2). SFO has had management actions and license conditions in place to limit impacts on these stocks. Recent years has provided focussed efforts and harvest on the Summer 4 (1) stocks which typically has fishing opportunities 2nd week to mid August for our first Communal Fisheries. The delay in the initial fisheries is to protect the Sum 5 (2) and let more of them to migrate through the system beyond our fishing area. These protection efforts have shown positive results in that FN impacts on these earlier stocks has lessened. However it has been revealed that the Sports / Recreational sector has increased impacts on these stocks of concern. First Nations of various tables and organizations are trying to work with DFO to correct and improve upon DFOs management regime which clearly contravenes aboriginal priority rights. In particular the Fraser Salmon Management Council has a Collaborative Management Agreement with DFO to manage Fraser migrating Salmon. Within this agreement is a Fraser Salmon Management Board which consists of 4 DFO and 4 Member FNs Regionally based(Upper Fraser FN / Mid Fraser / Lower Fraser and Marine-Approach FN). This Board is tasked with increasing management and decision making. It is here that FNs have expectations of more meaningful involvement in decision making. More on this as developments progress.

Turn page for more...

Sockeye

It is forecasted that sockeye returns be low to moderate which is improved over recent years which had extremely low returns due to various factors. There's not an expectation to have large sockeye directed fisheries, but enough to have minimal sockeye directed fisheries or enough to support by-catch impacts of sockeye caught during chinook directed fisheries for example. The likelihood of a Dry Rack Fishery is low despite ongoing efforts to get the dry rackers out there fishing in traditional manners with some flexibility in DFOs policies to allow for this minimal impact culturally significant fishery.

In recent years there has been conservation window closures in place intended to protect certain species and stocks. It is yet to be decided on whether the Early Stuart closure will be a 3-4 or 5 week duration and the dates associated and similar with the Coho Closure and the Steelhead Closure. More on these as they are confirmed. As the fishing season nears, please ensure that you provide updated contact information to Dominic and Connie so that you can receive any last minute fishing opportunities and information through out the season.

If you have any questions or need clarification please feel free to give me a call or send an email.

Contact Info

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STULLAWHEETS ELDER IN RESIDENCE

CATHY HOPE

Community Lunches | Canning Workshops

My role at the IR8 Center. I plan to make soup one day a week and make sandwiches and put them in the fridge for drop in residents. I shop at Save On Foods for food supplies. I set up on the table a fruit and pastry tray.

I get juice boxes and 1 liter juice and put them in the fridge. I also get water bottles too. I keep up with cleaning and sanitizing throughout the center each day. Everyone is welcome to drop by and visit. The snack table is open to everyone.



SOME PAST YFN EVENTS...

Happy Holidays 2024!



HOUSING

KATHERINE GIROUX



Good day, Yale First Nation Members,

Here is a quick update from our Housing Department: Several of our homes in the community have recently undergone energy efficiency upgrades to help keep them warmer during the winter months and cooler in the summer. Some homes have had heat pumps installed, which will make a big difference in maintaining comfortable temperatures year-round. With some of the roofs needing replacement, we have installed metal roofing as a part of our ongoing fire mitigation efforts. A number of homes have also been renovated to address mold issues and complete other necessary upgrades.

All of this work is being done to help extend the life of the homes on Yale First Nation, making sure they stay safe and livable for years to come. Starting this month- and likely continuing into next month- we will begin emptying the septic tanks for all homes. While doing this, we will also take the opportunity to check the condition of each system. This will help us identify any necessary repairs or maintenance that should be done now to prevent larger issues in the future.

Rental application forms are available on our website or can be picked up at the office. Please remember to renew your application each year to stay on the housing list. This helps us better plan for housing needs, including making sure the right size of home is assigned. And a friendly reminder: if your home needs any kind of repairs or maintenance, please fill out a maintenance request form. You can pick up the forms at any of our community buildings or at the office. Even our maintenance team carries forms with them. Once filled out, you can drop it off at the office or hand it directly to a member of the maintenance team. This helps us track urgent needs and ensure nothing gets missed.

Thank you, Yale First Nation Housing Department

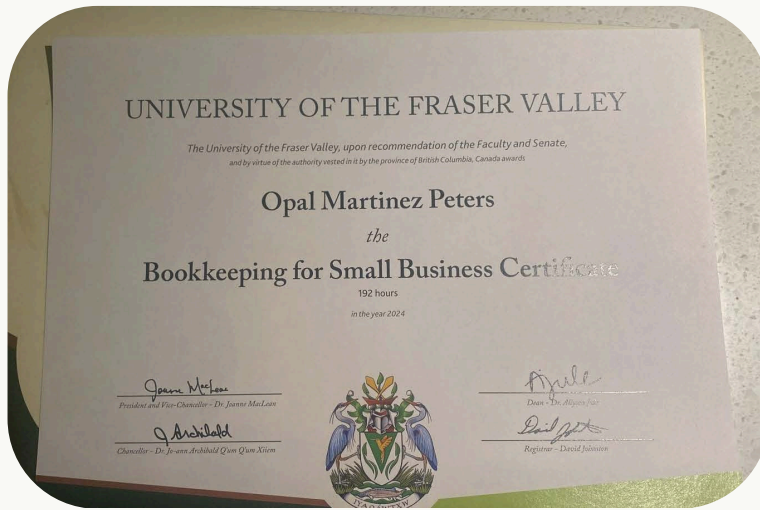
Contact Info

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CONGRATS!!!

A heartfelt congratulations to all our members and community members — your strength, perseverance, and dedication continue to uplift our Nation. Every success you achieve is a victory for us all. Keep rising — we are so proud of you.



EMERGENCY PROGRAM

DARYL HANSEN & WILL BAERG

FireSmart Initiatives

As the seasons shift and spring approaches, the YFN Emergency/FireSmart Program team has been hard at work keeping the community safe and prepared. Over the winter, we made significant progress on several projects.

We finalized the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, continued work on the Emergency Management Plan and Community Hazard Assessment, and supported the Maintenance Department on projects that help promote the well-being of YFN members and community infrastructure.

We have also been focused on securing additional funding to continue wildfire mitigation and FireSmart initiatives in the community. These efforts are vital in reducing the risk of wildfire and protecting our homes, lands, and infrastructure.

With warmer weather on the way, spring runoff is approaching quickly. We encourage all community members to stay alert and report any signs of flooding, drainage issues, or erosion concerns to Daryl - YFN Emergency Program Coordinator .

Thank you all for your continued support in making our community more resilient and prepared and we wish you a happy spring season!

Contact Info

Daryl Hansen, Coordinator
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Will Baerg, Project Manager
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CHIEF TROY PETERS

Portfolio

- Forestry
- Fisheries
- Economic Development
- Lands



Hello YFN Members,

I hope this message finds you all well.

First, I would like to acknowledge our Elders for their continued strength, resilience, and for sharing the rich history of Yale First Nation's traditional lands and culture. Your guidance grounds us as we continue to move forward together.

Yale First Nation Council will be meeting with Enbridge later this month. Due to the upcoming Sunrise Expansion Project, meetings between YFN and Enbridge will become more frequent. This project proposes to increase the flow of natural gas through the existing Enbridge pipeline that runs through our territory. YFN Council is committed to using all available resources to ensure that negotiations are fair and that any decisions made are in the best interest of our Nation and completed in a timely manner.

YFN also holds a forestry tenure license, allowing us to harvest timber annually, as permitted by the BC Ministry of Forests. This license is a significant opportunity for our Nation. However, last year, Council made the decision to decline harvesting in the designated cut blocks due to concerns about the potential impacts—not only for our own lands, but for neighbouring communities as well. Council is now actively exploring other alternatives for timber harvesting in areas that better align with our values and environmental stewardship.

Turn page fore more.....

We are also mindful of the uncertain future of forestry exports, especially with the ongoing volatility in U.S. trade policies and tariffs, which could impact First Nations across Canada.

In addition, Yale First Nation has entered into a limited partnership with Vine Maple. The company has proposed an open-pit mining project near Nickel Mine Road. They are currently undergoing the regulatory permitting process through the BC Ministry of Mines, BC Ministry of Forests, and the Provincial Regulatory and Reclamation Office (PRRO). We are monitoring this closely and will ensure the interests of YFN and the community remain at the forefront.

Lastly, our upcoming Band Meeting is just around the corner. We encourage everyone to attend, participate, and share what matters most to you. Your voice is vital as we work together to shape the future of our Nation.

It continues to be an honor to serve Yale First Nation. Let's forge a path forward together, and ensure a strong, sustainable future for the next generations.

With respect,
Chief Troy Peters

Pink Shirt Day 2025



ACKNOWLEDGING ALL OUR TEAM MEMBERS



Rachelle Provencher
Executive Assistant



Connie Belair
Floater/Fisheries Monitor



Peg Peters
Lukseetsissum Elder in Residence



Brandon Kriegl
Maintenance



Cathy Speth
Finance

SOME PAST YFN EVENTS...



**Band meeting
Nov16/24**

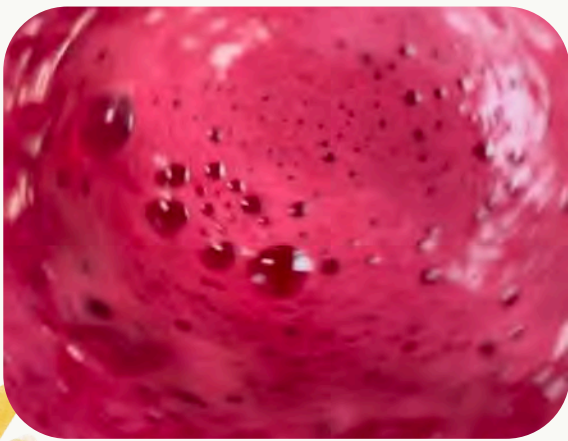


Greenhouse Gathering 2024



Shopping Trips

WHOLE LOT OF JUICING GOING ON!



CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATE

Railway Crossings on YFN Lands

Chief and Council would like to provide an important update regarding the railway crossings located within our traditional territory and reserve lands. These crossings are not only essential routes for our community to access their homes, but also connect us to our traditional fishing grounds, ceremonial teaching sites, and the final resting places of our loved ones.

We have formally written to Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), the company responsible for the railway, to address our concerns and remind them of their obligations. The key locations include:

- Yale Town (IR1)
- Stullawheets (IR8)
- Lukseetsissum (IR9)
- Albert Flat (IR5)

We are holding CPKC accountable for the ongoing maintenance, safety, and monitoring of all crossings that run through our lands. These crossings are deeply connected to our way of life, and we are committed to ensuring our members have safe and reliable access.

We have requested a formal meeting with CPKC to discuss their responsibilities and ensure they uphold their duty to Yale First Nation.

We will continue to update you as this discussion progresses.

Seeking Economic Opportunities with B.C. Parks

Chief and Council would like to share that we have reached out to B.C. Parks to express Yale First Nation's interest in being included in future economic opportunities related to hazard tree work within in our territories.

Yale First Nation holds all the required certifications to safely and effectively carry out this important work. We believe that this is a meaningful opportunity for us to strengthen our Nation's economic development while continuing to care for the lands that surround us.

With recent staffing changes at B.C. Parks, we are now in contact with Erin Kendall and have submitted a formal letter to open dialogue on developing a working relationship between Yale First Nation and B.C. Parks.

We look forward to building stronger partnerships that create more employment and training opportunities for our members.

CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATE

Addressing Fishing Activities in Our Traditional Territory

Chief and Council wish to inform you of ongoing discussions concerning the operations of Great River Fishing Adventures within our traditional territory along the Fraser River.

Our community holds constitutionally protected rights to harvest fish and aquatic plants for food, social, and ceremonial purposes. These practices are integral to our cultural heritage and community well-being.

In a previous conversation with Mr. Dean Werk, operator of Great River Fishing Adventures, we emphasized the importance of respecting our traditional fishing eddies and ceremonial gathering sites. While Mr. Werk highlighted his long-standing presence in the area, we reiterated our deep-rooted connection to this land and river, which spans thousands of years.

Our goal is to foster a collaborative approach that ensures the preservation of our traditional practices alongside sustainable commercial activities. To this end, we have proposed a meeting with Mr. Werk and representatives from relevant organizations to discuss our concerns and explore potential avenues for cooperation.

We are committed to establishing a positive working relationship and hope to resolve this matter promptly. We will keep the community informed of any developments and outcomes from these discussions.

CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATE

Closing Message from Chief & Council

As we continue the important work for our Nation, we want to take a moment to acknowledge that this work is not done alone — it is done alongside you. Whether you are an Elder sharing your wisdom, a youth learning and growing, a parent guiding your family, or a community member contributing your voice — every step forward is taken together.

Chief and Council remain committed to transparency, accountability, and unity. In the coming months, we are planning several key engagements with you, our membership, including:

- A community update meeting with Enbridge regarding the Sunrise Expansion project
- A Policy Review and Feedback Session to gather your input on how our governance can reflect our shared values
- A Ceremony and Celebration to honour our Elders and the Matriarchs Committee for their leadership, strength, and resilience

We are excited for what lies ahead and grateful for each of you who continues to show up for your Nation. Your voice matters. Your presence is valued. And together, we will continue to grow stronger.

In unity and respect,
Yale First Nation Chief & Council