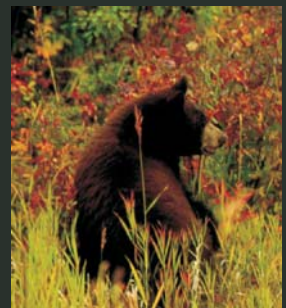




Inside...

- Kaska Communities Sign Historic Kaska Collaboration Agreement
- John Porter - Tribute to a Kaska Elder



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Fall is here and brings with it colder air and leaves blowing in the wind, but this year it also brings the historic signing of the Kaska Collaboration Agreement between the Kaska Nation. On September 29, 2011 all Kaska Leaders together signed an agreement that allows us a unified approach to resource developments within our traditional territory. The Kaska Dena Council would like to thank the leaders, technical staff and negotiators for staying on course until an agreement was reached.



Mussi-Cho  
George Miller,  
Chair, Kaska Dena Council

### Kaska Dena Council Welcomes Two New Members To Their Team

Ruby Johnny was elected for the position of Vice-Chair of Finance and Administration and brings with her years of experience in finance as well as enthusiasm in working for the Kaska Dena people.



Danny Case



Ruby Johnny

Danny Case was elected for the position of Vice-Chair of Lands and Resources and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of lands and resources.

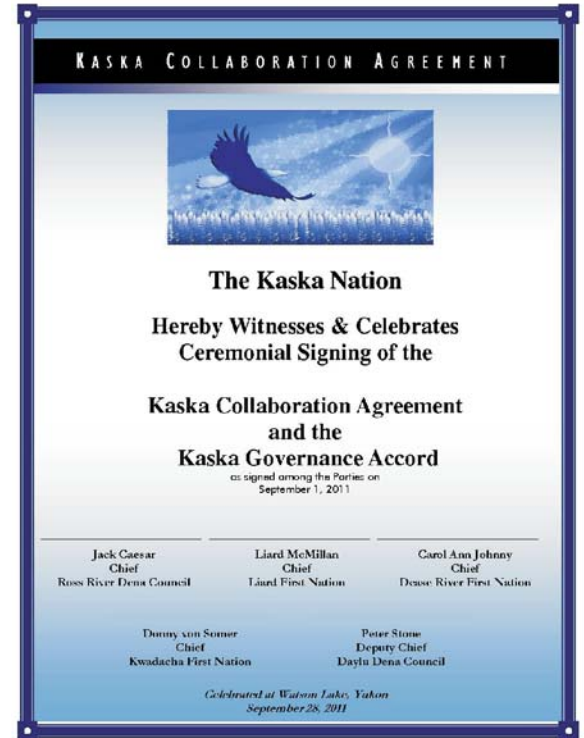
WELCOME ABOARD RUBY AND DANNY!

# KASKA COMMUNITIES SIGN HISTORIC KASKA COLLABORATION AGREEMENT (KCA)

**K**aska Communities in B.C. and Yukon celebrated the signing of the Kaska Collaboration Agreement and related documents, establishing a unified approach to resource developments within their traditional territory. The Kaska leaders were joined by Elders, community members and representatives of Government and Industry in a celebration which included a ceremonial signing, a feast, entertainment and traditional Kaska games.

Chief Jack Caesar of Ross River Dena Council said of the KCA, “The Kaska once again stand united as one people sharing one land. We want to encourage responsible development in our territory and the KCA commits us all to work together as a Nation to ensure our lands are protected. Where we agree to developments proceeding, we will ensure that Kaska people benefit from extraction of resources from our lands.”

The KCA is a comprehensive document which sets out how the Kaska communities will engage with industry and governments with respect to proposed developments in Kaska traditional territory. It includes provisions on how agreements will be negotiated, how they will be approved



and how the benefits, including business employment and financial participation will be shared among the Kaska communities.

Chief Liard McMillan of Liard First Nation noted that this unified approach is something resource proponents, including mining and oil and gas companies, will welcome. “Essentially, we are creating a ‘one window one table’ opportunity for companies seeking to operate in Kaska Territory” said Chief McMillan.

Agreements contemplated under the KCA will include mining, forestry, energy, oil and gas and pipeline projects. Kaska will be briefing Government and Industry at the ceremony and organizing private meetings with Industry and Government throughout the Fall to discuss current

*Continued on page 3*

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*Continued from page 2*

and future resource projects in Kaska Territory.

Chief Don Van Somer of Kwadacha First Nation said, "While we have established a path forward to collectively participate in resource developments in



our territory, we will always be mindful of our sacred trust to protect our land for future generations. There will be no environmental blank cheques given to companies."

"The Kaska have not surrendered their Aboriginal Rights and Title to lands in Yukon, BC and NWT. We have tremendous amounts of development in Kaska Territory. This can be a great opportunity for Kaska people, but only if Government and Industry sign respectful Agreements with us that respect our title, the environment and culture as well as

our right to benefit economically from use of our resources," said Chief Carol Ann Johnny of Dease River First Nation.

"Kaska Leadership and our communities are also sending a message with the KCA that the Nation is adamant that alienation of our lands cannot continue by those who chose to ignore our un-surrendered aboriginal title. Those companies that do are welcome to work with us in Kaska Territory and to mutually prosper for many years to come!" said Deputy Chief Peter Stone of Daylu Dena Council.



*"While we have established a path forward to collectively participate in resource developments in our territory, we will always be mindful of our sacred trust to protect our land for future generations..."*

**We're on the web!  
Visit:  
[www.kaskadena-council.com](http://www.kaskadena-council.com)**

## John Porter – Tribute to a Kaska Elder

– Michelle Miller –

John Porter is a recognized elder in our community and within the Kaska Nation. John was born on October 2, 1939 at Porter Lake or “way back, this side of the Turnagain.” John's parents Charlie and Lucy Porter had thirteen children. The Porter children lived the majority of their childhood at Fish Lake which is now called Graveyard Lake.

A normal day for John consisted of fishing and playing around the camp. His parents spoke to him in both English and Kaska language which he now still speaks.

Buying groceries for the family wasn't as simple as getting into your truck and going to the nearest store back then. John said his father would ride horses into Lower Post in the summer to buy groceries and in the winter they would travel by dog sled.

John said his family moved to Fireside when he was young. As he got older he started hunting with his father which eventually at the age of 15 led into a 40 year guiding career. He laughs when he remembers what his daily pay was; he said “they paid me five dollars a



day during the summer and twenty dollars a day when the hunters arrived.” John easily recalls guiding hunters that were “American, Mexican and Japanese” to name a few. Over his 40 years as a guide he

worked for outfitters such as Gordy Moon, Frank Cook, Dalziel and “ole Skook.” John was very modest when speaking of his experience as a guide but did mention that his biggest trophy was a Ram with horns measuring 44 ½ inches. He also mentioned that back then “we would just take what we needed from the kill and leave everything else”, and now you have to take everything. John said that his last hunt was only last year when he went out for Miles Bradford.

John now resides in Lower Post with his wife of 20 years Jessie Porter. They live in the “Whitehouse” which is always glowing with lights every Christmas and blooming with flowers every summer. John has a great sense of humour and still loves very much to go out hunting. As the quote says “men do not quit playing because they grow old; they grow old because they quit playing” so here's to you John may you never quit playing.



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