



# Kaska Dena News

Volume 5, Issue 2

Fall 2013

## KASKA DENA COUNCIL 2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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The KDC Annual General Assembly took place this year from July 16-18<sup>th</sup> in Kwadacha. The business aspects of the General Assembly took place in Kwadacha's new Administration and Health Building. This state of the art new building provided a wonderful venue for the General Assembly, with ample meeting space, kitchen for preparing meals, indoor mezzanine for sitting and socializing, and outside grounds on the banks of the Findlay River with eating area and room for the children to play.

The General Assembly agenda was constructed to report out and discuss KDC business during the mornings, while afternoons and evenings were set aside for organized social activities, meals prepared by Kwadacha cooks and time for families and friends to reconnect.

The General Assembly was well attended by Kwadacha members as well as Kaska Dena members from Good Hope

Lake and Lower Post who made the long trip in by road. Kwadacha Band members from Prince George and surrounding area all made the long road journey by bus to attend the General Assembly.

Day one of the Agenda covered an important aspect of this year's General Assembly, which was the election of Kaska Dena Council Executive (see page 2).

In the afternoon on day one there was a celebration of the opening of Kwadacha's Administration and Health Building which was attended by Health Canada and the Aboriginal Health Council. This modern building is geothermally heated and cooled, and has a wing for Health and a wing for Administration offices. The Health wing has an operating room for minor surgeries, a dental office and facilities and video conferencing so that nurses can communicate with doctors for

*Continued on page 2*



Kwadacha Admin. and Health Building

*Continued from page 1*

consultations if need be. The Administration wing has multiple offices for Chief and Council members, Land and Resources Officers and other administrative staff. George Miller, Chair of KDC, presented Chief Donny Van Somer with a mask by Kaska carver Willie Atkinson to celebrate the opening of the new building. Health Canada and Aboriginal Health Council officials also presented gifts of congratulations.

Days two – four covered report-outs on business including updates on Treaty negotiations, Incremental Treaty Agreement, Strategic Engagement, Land Use Planning Updates and a KDC financial and membership report.



KDC Chair, George Miller presents mask to Chief Donny Van Somer

**Photo Credits:**  
 Elvis Fjellner  
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 Bill Lux  
 Shana Manson  
 Jody Nishima  
 Tom Vince

## Election of Kaska Dena Council Executive

**A**n important element to the General Assembly this year was election of the Kaska Dena Council Executive, which takes place every two years. All Kaska who are registered members of Kaska Dena Council are entitled to vote for the KDC Executive: Chair, Vice Chair of Finance and Vice Chair of Lands and Resources, or to run for office. The election of KDC Executive took place on July 16, 2013.

voted in by acclamation.

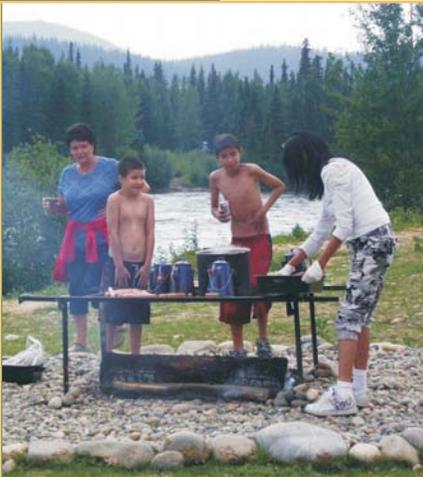
**Congratulations go out to the re-elected KDC Executive: KDC Chair, George Miller; Vice Chair, Admin & Finance – Ruby Johnny and Vice Chair, Lands & Resources – Danny Case**

### Election Results

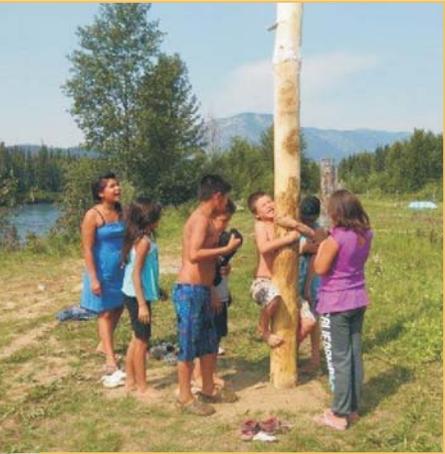
All past KDC Executive members were



Playing by the river



Hanging by the fire



Greased pole contest



General Assembly participants

## KDC TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

**K**aska Dena Council is in Stage 4 of a 6 Stage Treaty Process with BC Treaty Commission. Stage 4 is the stage in which an Agreement in Principle is negotiated. The Agreement in Principle (AIP) is not a legal agreement, it is the blueprint from which the Final Agreement will be negotiated. The AIP must receive KDC member approval before Kaska Dena Council will enter Stage 5 of the Treaty process – the stage in which the Final Agreement is negotiated. The Final Agreement must be ratified by all parties before it goes into Stage 6, which is the stage in which a Treaty is implemented.

### Update

Kaska Dena Treaty Side Tables have been held monthly as the tri-partite negotiating teams continue to make progress on the Land and Resources chapters of the Agreement in Principle (AIP).

On June 20th, a Treaty Main Table was held in Vancouver. At this Main Table, the

three Chief Negotiators (Dave Porter Kaska Dena Council; Roger Graham BC and Gavin Fitch, Canada) signed off on an 18 Month Work Plan for the Treaty Side Table to work towards achieving an AIP. While all parties agree that this is an ambitious timeline, the signing off on the 18 month work plan demonstrates a commitment from all parties to work toward achieving an Agreement in Principle within the 18 month period.

Achieving the 18 month work plan will also involve work within the communities to report out on progress and to receive feedback from community members with respect to Chapter negotiations and Kaska Dena lands selections. (See below)



Dave Porter, KDC Chief Negotiator

## Treaty Awareness

**I**n May, 2013 Treaty Awareness Seminars were held in Lower Post, Good Hope Lake and Kwadacha. The purpose of the Treaty Awareness Seminars was to provide updates regarding the status of KDC Treaty Negotiations and through guest speakers provide the opportunity for Kaska Dena to learn more about Treaty and Self Government through other First Nation's experiences.

First Nation self-government experts, Barbara Joe and Shana Manson spoke to our communities about First Nations self-government. These presentations gave community members the opportunity to gain awareness about First Nations self-government – what it is and how would it be different to the current Band Government that has been set up and is administered by

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development under the Indian Act.

### Update

The next round of Treaty Forums will take place during the fall. Treaty Forums will be held on a regular basis and will be designed to provide updates to community members with respect to Treaty and Treaty Negotiations and provide the opportunity for community members to bring questions, recommendations or concerns to Kaska Dena negotiators.

For dates of Treaty Forums in your community call the Kaska Dena Council office at 250-779-3181 or check your Band Office for Treaty Forum postings.

*In May 2013, Treaty Awareness Seminars were held in Lower Post, Good Hope Lake and Kwadacha.*



## GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT

*Shana Manson, a member of Lyackson First Nation, has accepted a contract to work with Kaska Dena in developing a Kaska Dena Governance model and Constitution framework.*

**K**aska Dena Council has received funding through Treaty Related Measures for a Kaska Dena Governance and Constitution initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to engage Kaska Dena Leaders, Elders and members, supported by the expertise of a First Nations governance consultant, to develop the Governance Structure and Constitution framework for Kaska Dena Government.

KDC is pleased to announce that Shana Manson, a member of Lyackson First Nation, has accepted a contract to work with Kaska Dena in developing a Kaska Dena Governance model and Constitution framework. Shana is a First Nation Governance specialist, has a Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Indigenous Governance. She taught First Nation self-government at Vancouver Island University and will be teaching an Undergrad course in Indigenous Governance at the Univeristy of Victoria in January, 2014.

Through implementation of an agreed upon community engagement process, Shana will conduct a series of information and consultation sessions to both inform, and assist Kaska Dena to develop an economically achievable



Shana Manson

model of government that combines Kaska Dena cultural traditions with a modern democratic government structure.

This important community work will help prepare the Kaska Dena Negotiating team in negotiating the Governance Chapter of the Agreement in Principle, which will commence following completion of the Governance/Constitution initiative.

Shana will be meeting with Chief and Council, Elders and community members in Lower Post, Good Hope Lake and in Kwadacha in the fall 2013 to begin the process and will complete the process by spring 2014. For dates of the community engagement process visit the KDC website: [kaskadenacouncil.com/treaty](http://kaskadenacouncil.com/treaty) or check your Band Office for postings.





## **Incremental Treaty Agreement – Update**

In April 2013, the Kaska Dena Council, supported by Band Council Resolutions from Daylu Dena Council, Dease River First Nation and Kwadacha Nation, signed an Incremental Treaty Agreement (ITA) with the Province of BC.

An Incremental Treaty Agreement is not a Treaty. It is a legal pre-Treaty agreement that, in the case of the Kaska ITA, will transfer ten parcels of land comprising 607 ha to Kaska Dena as fee simple land for economic development purposes.

### **Update**

During the fall of 2013 British Columbia will survey the first four parcels

of ITA land: Lower Post Mill, Fort Ware North and Troutline Intake & Troutline Powerhouse.

Once surveyed, these lands can be transferred to a Kaska Dena Lands Corporation, which is held by the three Kaska Dena communities.

Once these lands have been transferred, Kaska Dena can then begin to develop these lands for economic development purposes.

For a full list of the Kaska Dena ITA lands, maps and to read the Incremental Treaty Agreement visit the KDC website: [kaskadenacouncil.com/treaty](http://kaskadenacouncil.com/treaty)

## **Turnagain Guide Outfitting Territory – Now Kaska Owned!**

**Turnagain Guide Outfitting has officially been transferred to Kaska Dena!**

KDC has been negotiating with the province of BC since 2002 to have Turnagain Guide Outfitting Territory turned over to Kaska Dena and this has finally been achieved.

The guide outfitting business will be operated by Chee Ventures Ltd., a Kaska Dena tourism corporation owned by the three Kaska Dena communities. The Directors of Chee Ventures Ltd. are Bill Lux (Good Hope Lake), Michelle Miller (Lower Post) and Danny Case (Kwadacha).

Transfer of the Guide Outfitting tenure includes Turnagain Lodge. As part of the ITA, 20 ha of land that the Turnagain Lodge and hunters cabins are situated on will be transferred to Kaska Dena in the next phase of lands to be

surveyed and transferred (2014-15).

Ownership of the lodge and the land the lodge sits on further strengthens Kaska Dena economic development opportunities and use of the lodge. Look forward to receiving updates as to the plans for the Lodge and the Turnagain Guide Outfitting business.



Turnagain Lodge

*The ITA is a legal pre-Treaty agreement that, in the case of the Kaska ITA, will transfer ten parcels of land comprising 607 ha to Kaska Dena as fee simple land for economic development purposes.*



## LANDS AND RESOURCES

### Kaska Natural Resources Society – Update

The Regional Coordinator (Steven Jakesta - 250-779-3002) continues to receive and work with the Community LROs to process the referrals as received.

A Level Four referral was received for one hundred test holes for placer exploration in the Gallic Lake area with no specific area identified, meaning anywhere in the Gallic Lake area. This is the head waters for the French River. A Strategic Engagement Working Group was established and a meeting was held with the outcome recommendations to only work on 12 test holes in a specific area and the holes must be reclaimed before further consideration is accepted. This recommendation was submitted to the Natural Resource Council, then forwarded for a final decision.

A Level Three referral was received with a recommendation to bump it to a Level Four because of the nature of the application. Canada Zinc proposed a number of amendments to their existing permits including a temporary camp. Again a Strategic Engagement Working Group was established and a meeting was held with the outcome being to relocate the temporary camp location. It was reported back to the Natural Resource Council, then forwarded for a final decision.

In the past few months BC government's Archaeology Branch has signed on to the SEA process and has submitted eight applications

since late July. It appears that oil and gas activities have increased substantially in the Liard Basin area.

For further information and any concerns or reports on activities with Land and Resources please contact your Local Land and Resource Officer in your community:

#### Land and Resource Officers

- ▶ Myles Carlick, Dease River First Nation (Good Hope Lake) 250-239-3037
- ▶ Shawna Case, Kwadacha First Nation (Kwadacha) 250-471-2302
- ▶ Vanessa Law, Daylu Dena Council (Lower Post) 250-779-3161

#### Natural Resource Council

The Natural Resource Council (Bill Lux, Co-Chair) will be meeting in October 2013 in Prince George for their next quarterly meeting. Some of the agenda items are based on the ongoing work that was started back in the fall of 2012. This is due to the timing set out by the parties to complete the work necessary for a decision. Some of the activities are: review of the Mackenzie and the Cassiar Timber Supply by the Province; Kutcho Creek mine and multi tenured process; culturally sensitive area mapping and next steps; mining activities in Kwadacha and North Liard (best practices for placer and mineral exploration); and Cumulative Effects as a tool for future decisions on Resource development.

The following is a list of Kaska representatives on the NRC. If you have any concerns at the strategic level please contact your community representatives.

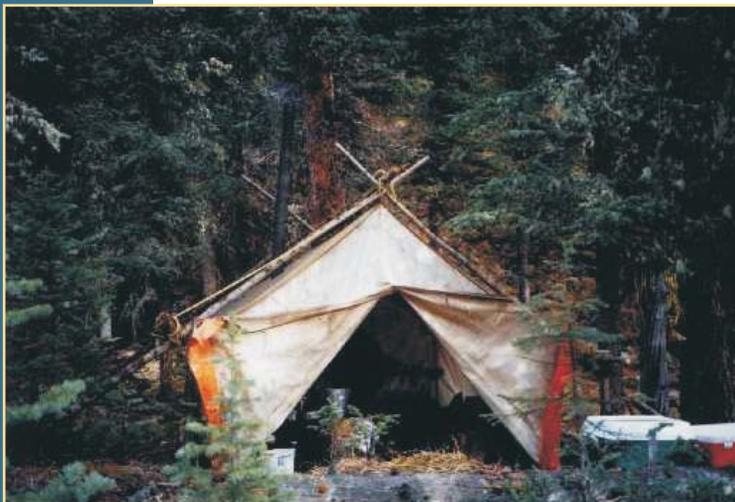
#### Natural Resource Council Members

- ▶ Roy Carlick, Dease River First Nation (Good Hope Lake)
- ▶ John R McCook, Kwadacha First Nation (Ft Ware)
- ▶ Derek Loots, Daylu Dena Council (Lower Post)

#### Shared Decision Working Group Technical Members

- ▶ Norm Maclean, Technical Advisor
- ▶ Dave Crampton, Forestry Advisor
- ▶ Corrine Porter, DKI

*To date, 54 referrals have gone through the SEA Engagement framework at different Levels of 1-4.*



## HEALING AND RECONCILIATION Gathering Around the Fire Documentary Film

From August 10 - 13, 2012, the Kaska Dena, Tahltan and Taku River Tlingit Nations came together to stand strong in support of one another and create the healing space required to hold Gathering Around the Fire, one of the most significant healing gatherings of our time. Hosted by the community of Daylu, over 800 people joined together for four days to commemorate former students of the Lower Post Residential School. The focus of the Gathering was on healing, culture, traditions, and cleansing of the land.

Leading up to and during the Gathering, co-cinematographers Brian Ladue and Victor Kisoun travelled to Kaska, Tahltan and Taku River Tlingit communities to record and film former students in their communities. With additional support from film maker, Al Code, the actual Gathering Around the Fire at Daylu was filmed and the documentary was edited and produced.

Just under 60 minutes in length, the documentary film entitled "Gathering Around the Fire" is described:

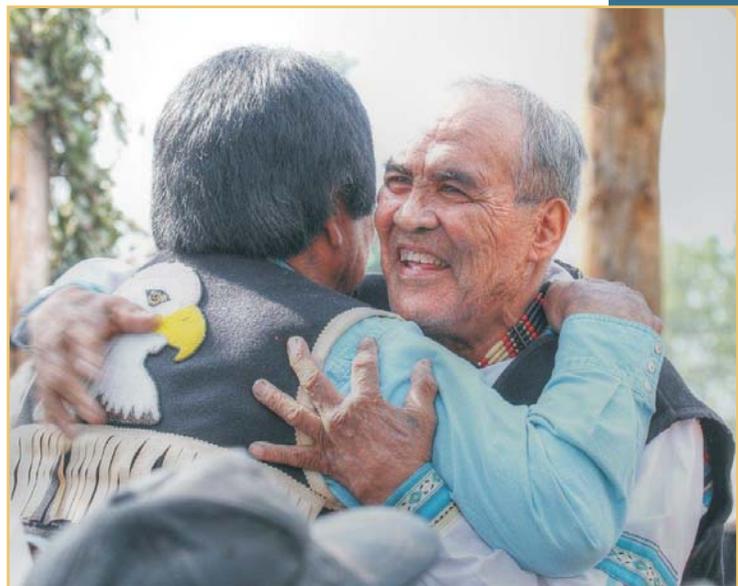
*"At Lower Post BC, a place always known as Daylu, the site of a notorious residential school is cleansed; as those involved recall and confront traumatic memory through ceremony and testimony."*



*'Gathering Around the Fire' is about courage and determination to heal relationships between people, community and government at the most fundamental level."*

This documentary was funded through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and AANDC. If you are interested in viewing this documentary, please contact Michelle Miller, Executive Director, Kaska Dena Council by email at [kdccexecdir@northwestel.net](mailto:kdccexecdir@northwestel.net)

Check out the new and updated KDC Website!  
[www.kaskadena.council.com](http://www.kaskadena.council.com)



## FALL GROUND HOG HUNT

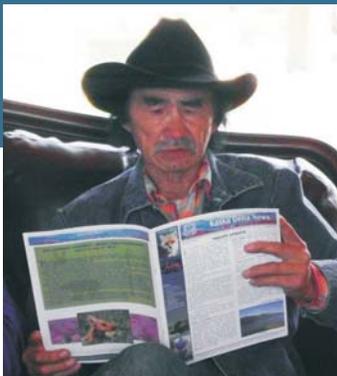


Ground Hog is a traditional Kaska food source, and is especially popular in the fall when the ground hogs are fat after the summer. The Kaska name for ground hog is dedie.

There are a number of different ways to prepare ground hog in order to cook the meat. The hair can either be singed off (remove it) over the fire and then scraping until the hair is off, or some prefer to skin the ground hog. Many elders prefer to singe the ground hog to remove the hair just as you would a porcupine to remove the quills, and then boil it.

Once the hair is off the ground hog, you can roast it over an open fire, cut it up and boil it or wrap it in tin foil over the fire. If you are going to roast the ground hog, you can put it on a stick or hang it over an open fire.

## FALL BERRY PICKING STARTS AT A YOUNG AGE



Melvin McCook

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