



Kaska Dena News

Volume 9, Issue 1

Summer 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This has once again been a busy year to date and we have important initiatives to report on at our General Assembly this year as we continue to move forward and make progress in our work to protect our Indigenous rights, title, and interests.

First, I would like to congratulate the newly elected Chief and Council for Liard First Nation and the Deputy Chief and Council for Daylu Dena Council, as well as the Kwadacha Nation who also held elections this past spring. We look forward to working with all the Kaska communities to continue building a national unity front and protection of our Indigenous rights and interests.

This year's theme for the General Assembly (GA) is "Self Determination in Governance". Our General Assembly will take place from July 26-28th at Rapid River. We look forward to reporting out to members on our initiatives, as well as creating the opportunity for friends and families to reconnect, socialize, and celebrate our culture.

There will be several reports given at the GA on our initiatives over the past year, including several initiatives that KDC and Daylu Dena Council, Dease River First Nation, and Kwadacha Nation continue to participate in and manage like the Strategic Engagement Agreement G2G Table. There will be information tents set up with maps and communication materials and we encourage you to read these and ask questions of the negotiators and technical people.

It is through the commitment, engagement, and support from our members that this good work continues to advance. Even with these successes, there is still much to accomplish. We look forward to getting together at our GA and we encourage all members to attend.

Mussi Cho

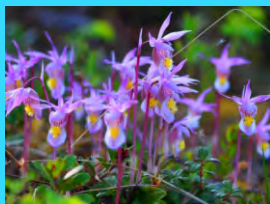
George Miller, Chair



KDC General Assembly 2016

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- Treaty Update
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- Kaska Dena Strategic Engagement Agreement
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TREATY UPDATE

In May 2016, the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs announced Canada is now a full supporter, without qualification, of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The declaration recognizes Indigenous individuals' basic human rights, as well as rights to self-determination, language, equality, and land, among others.

This announcement speaks to the positive attitude and direction Trudeau's Liberal Government is taking with respect to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

In April 2017, Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs said "We are determined to make a real difference in the lives of Indigenous Peoples – by closing socio-economic gaps, supporting greater self-determination, and establishing opportunities to work together on shared priorities. We are also reviewing all federal laws and policies that concern Indigenous Peoples and making progress on the Calls to Action outlined in the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

This is good news for Indigenous Peoples, and we look to this government for real change in laws and mandates, including mandates relating to treaties.

Canada's modern Treaties provide Indigenous peoples with certainty – not

for cease and surrender as the old Treaties did. Kaska continue the negotiations to protect the rights and interests of Kaska Dena through Treaty and self-government and are negotiating a Kaska Land Model toward this end.

Following is a description of the Land Model being negotiated in the Agreement in Principle stage of treaty negotiations. When the draft AIP is complete, it will be brought to KDC members for review and approval; the next stage being negotiation of the final agreement. The final agreement becomes a Treaty when it is ratified by all parties and enacted through Treaty Legislation.

Kaska Dena Land Model

To negotiate jurisdiction and ownership of land, Kaska Dena negotiators presented a Kaska Dena Land Model to Kaska Dena leadership and Kaska Dena community members.

The Kaska Dena Land Model outlines an approach for 100% management of the Kaska Dena Traditional Territory in British Columbia, and envisions three types of land designation:

1. **Kaska Dena Owned Lands** Kaska Dena lands owned through BC fee simple title on which Kaska Dena laws would apply;
2. **Shared Decision Making Lands** such as Kaska Dena currently have with the Strategic Engagement Agreement; and
3. **Kaska Dena Stewardship Lands** Lands within the core of the Kaska Dena Traditional Territory. Government and industry would require the consent of Kaska Dena before land and resource decisions are made.

The Kaska Dena Owned Lands will be negotiated at AIP, and the Kaska Dena

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KDC General Assembly 2016



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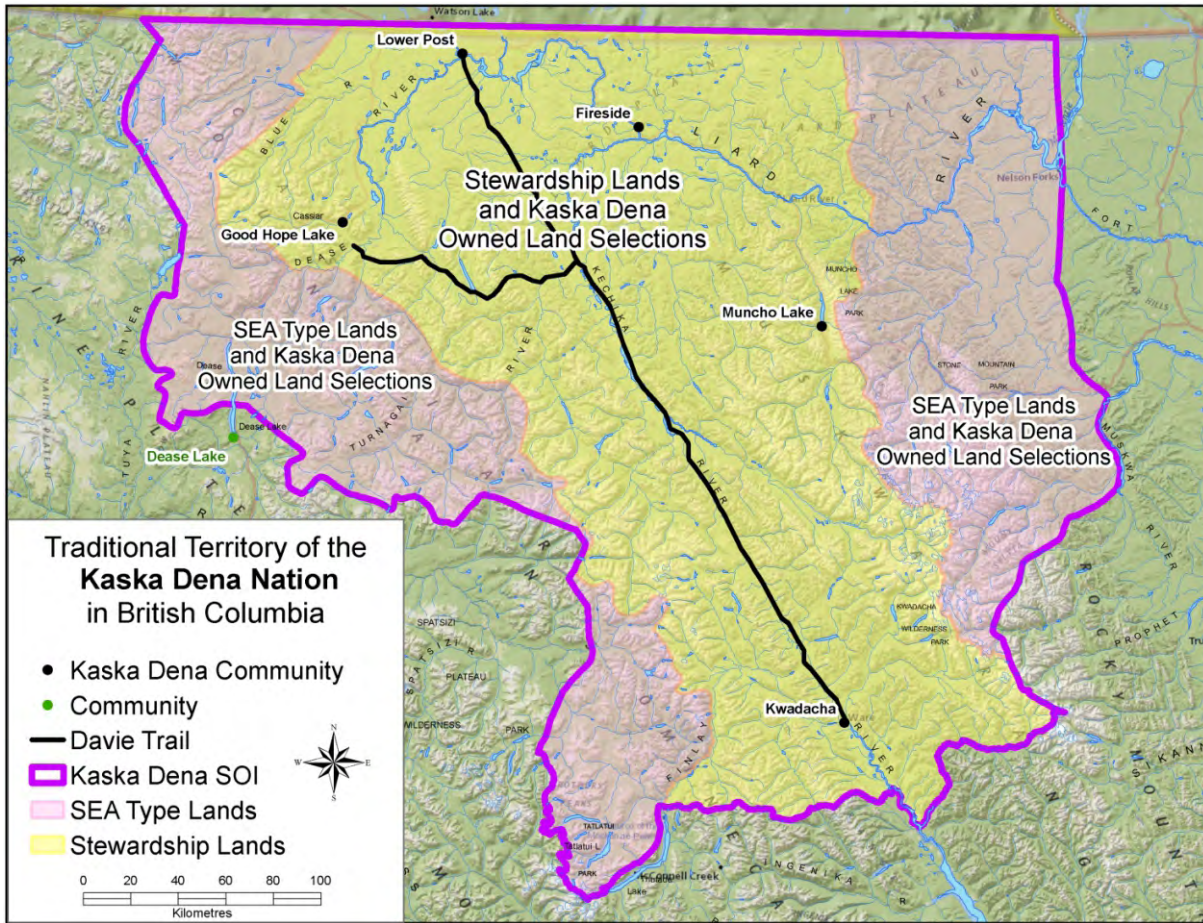
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Shared Area and Stewardship Lands would be negotiated at Final Agreement.

Kaska Dena negotiating team have held meetings with leadership and Kaska community members to go over the Kaska Land Model, answer questions and to

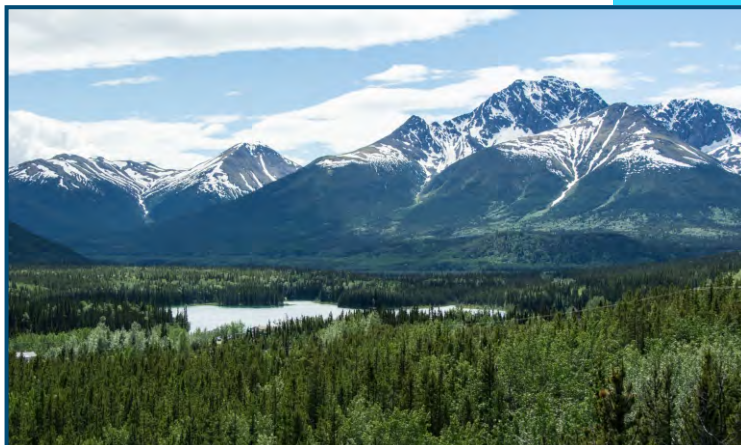
identify areas of interest for category one lands of the Kaska Dena Land Model – Kaska Dena Owned Lands. Maps are then created which show all of the areas of interest and are then brought to the Treaty Side Table.

Kaska Dena Land Model Applied to Traditional Territory in BC



During the July, 2017 General Assembly (July 26-28 at Rapid River) an information tent will be set up with maps and information on the Kaska Dena Land Model and Agreement in Principle draft chapters.

Good Hope Lake





Turnagain Guide Outfitting Certificate, Lodge, and Land – Kaska Dena Owned

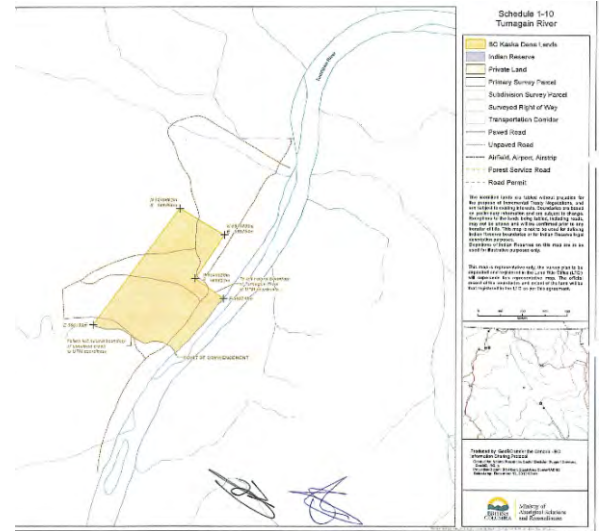
Report Out from Chee Ventures Limited

Turnagain Lodge now has a sign on the door letting local hunters and travellers to the area know that this Lodge and area is now officially owned by the Kaska Dena.

The Turnagain Lodge now proudly bears a sign on the door welcoming people to Kaska Dena Traditional Territory and to the Kaska Dena-owned Turnagain Lodge.

As of March 2017, Turnagain Lodge and the land it sits on now officially belong to Kaska Dena as fee simple (private land).

This past winter, Directors of Chee Ventures Limited, a 100% Kaska Dena owned corporation, travelled to Turnagain Lodge to put up a sign on the door of the Lodge, welcoming people to Kaska Dena Traditional Territory and to the Kaska Dena Lodge. It is important to let local



Map of Turnagain ITA Lands



hunters and travellers to the area know that this Lodge and area is now officially owned by Kaska Dena.

The Turnagain Guide Outfitting Certificate (GOC), giving Kaska the authority to hunt commercially in the area subject to the criteria specified in the GOC, was transferred to the Kaska Dena from the provincial government in 2013 after an extensive negotiation period. The Guide Outfitting Certificate is held on behalf of Kaska Dena, is renewable every 25 years and is managed by Chee Ventures Limited. Luke Vince, a certified guide outfitter, operated the Turnagain Guide Outfitting Area and Kwadacha's guide outfitting area for three years under a co-management agreement between Chee Ventures Limited and Kwadacha Nation. Luke hired Kaska Dena guides and cooks to work both outfits.

Through an Incremental Treaty Agreement, Kaska Dena Council negotiated 30 hectares of land in the



Turnagain Lodge

Kaska Dena News



Aerial view of the Turnagain ITA Lands with Lodge and Cabins

Now that Kaska Dena owns the lodge, there are options as to how to utilize it to the benefit of Kaska Dena and to produce jobs and economic development opportunities.

immediate vicinity of the lodge, including the lodge, guest cabins, corrals, out-buildings, fencing and trailheads. The ITA was signed in 2013, but the land was only just transferred in 2017. The land is held by a Kaska Dena Collective Land Corporation.

Now that Kaska Dena own the lodge, there are options as to how to utilize the lodge to benefit Kaska Dena and to produce jobs and economic development opportunities. Ideas are being explored, including guide training, log cabin construction, healing center, fishing cabins and eco-tourism.



Turnagain Lodge and guest cabins



Guest Cabin



Youth riding at Turnagain Youth Camp



KASKA DENA STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT New SEA Regional Coordinator and Co-Chair

In May 2017, Gillian Staveley accepted the contract position of the SEA Regional Coordinator and Co-Chair.

Gillian is a Kaska Dena member of the Liard First Nation, a descendent of the Stone and McDonald families whose heritage lies in the Muncho Lake region of Northern British Columbia.

SEA Update

With the last year of a three-year agreement coming up in March 2018, the Parties agreed to support the renewal of the Kaska SEA to March 31, 2021 and they are starting to review and amend a draft for consideration.

Over the past year, BC government staff members working in the three District Offices have provided a great level of support to KDC within the SEA. The three District Offices that are within the Kaska Territory include: Stikine–Bulkley, Mackenzie, and Peace.

One of the fundamental challenges with three different District Offices is dealing with critical resource management issues that are important to the KDC. In and about 2000, the Kaska Dena pursued a Land Use Planning process with British Columbia due to the Forest development activities in the Dease River Watershed area of the Kaska Traditional Territory. In 2004, the Kaska Dena Council and British Columbia agreed on a final Sustainable Resource Management Plan on

forestry and wildlife management in the Dease Liard area in the Traditional Territory. This did not take into account Wildfires and Salvage Wood. This winter the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Resources have been working with the Dease River First Nation and Daylu Dena Council to set out a Salvage Wood Plan and a final draft will be brought to the communities so that there will be guidelines for any future applications for access to a large cutting permit. As development slows we can review the overall management issues such as hunting, forestry, mining and other resource matters and look at what needs to be done to help address these issues.

A total of 116 referrals were sent to Kaska under the Strategic Engagement Agreement this year.

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Sector	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Forestry	4	2	0	9
Range	8	10	20	8
Water	4	2	1	0
Lands (includes archeology)	14	12	15	42
Fish and Wildlife	14	4	16	17
Mines	47	32	80	22
Parks	18	6	3	3
Petroleum and Natural Gas	0	0	0	3
Other (includes public works)	0	4	3	12

Kaska Dena News

Communicating and Building Awareness with KDC Members

To update members about treaty negotiations and other initiatives, KDC produces regular communication tools. There are future plans to produce audio visual presentations for those who prefer to learn in ways other than by written materials.

KDC Website

KDC's website is updated regularly and contains information including KDC's Agreements, Treaty Negotiations, Wildlife Management and information for hunters, the Strategic Engagement Agreement, Land Use Plans, etc. Check it out at: www.kaskadenacouncil.com

Newsletters

Kaska Dena Council produces regular newsletters in the spring/summer, fall and winter. These newsletters are sent to the communities for distribution and are also available on the KDC website. If you have missed a past issue you can download a copy from the KDC newsletter archive on the KDC website where you will find KDC newsletters going back to 2009.

http://www.kaskadenacouncil.com/news_archives/newsletter-archive

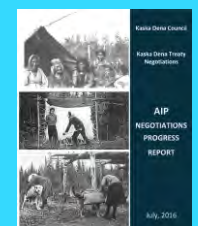
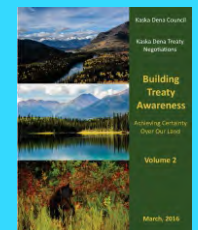
KDC Treaty Awareness Series

KDC produces an on-going series of treaty awareness publications. These publications are distributed at commu-

nity meetings, the General Assembly and are posted on the KDC website. Printed copies are available by contacting the KDC Treaty Coordinator, Michelle Miller, at: kdccexedir@northwestel.net, or, if you prefer, download via the KDC website.

<http://www.kaskadenacouncil.com/treaty/communication/treaty-info>

- **Building Treaty Awareness, October 2014, Volume 1**, answers questions that were given to the treaty negotiating team by Kaska people through questionnaires and/or asked of the treaty negotiation team at community meetings.
- **Building Treaty Awareness, Volume 2: Achieving Certainty Over Our Land, March 2016**, describes the Kaska Dena Land Model that is the basis for negotiating and achieving certainty over our land.
- **Agreement in Principle – Negotiations Progress Report, July 2016**, The Agreement in Principle (AIP) is still being negotiated. This publication is an update on the status of AIP negotiations, and gives a brief over-view of each draft chapter in the AIP.
- **Building Treaty Awareness, Volume 3: Returning to Self-Governance, April 2017**. Before colonialism and the *Indian Act*, Kaska Dena were self-governing. This publication describes what returning to self-governance means for modern day Treaty Nations, and particularly for Kaska Dena.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Kaska Dena Council General Assembly

July 26-28, Rapid River

The 2017 General Assembly for Kaska Dena Council is scheduled to take place this year at Rapid River. The dates for the General Assembly are Wednesday, July 26th to Friday, July 28th.

This will be not only a time to become better informed as to the major initiatives of 2016-17, but also a great time to reconnect with family and friends, socializing and celebrating our culture.

KASKA DENA SELF GOVERNANCE

In November, Michelle Miller and Angela Wesley, along with members of Kaska Dena Council's technical team, travelled to the Kaska Dena communities of Fort Ware, Lower Post and Good Hope Lake to talk with members about self-governance. Discussions included what self-governance looked like prior to colonization and our vision for our future as self-governing people, free from the restrictions of the *Indian Act* and current INAC imposed policies. (See KDC Winter 2016 Newsletter).

During the spring of 2017 a second round of community meetings took place in Lower Post, Good Hope Lake and Fort Ware.

Michelle Miller and Angela Wesley met with members in all three communities and continued the discussions about what Kaska members envision for self-governance. Youth and Elders offered strong, clear perspectives on self-governance, including Kaska principles and descriptions of Kaska in the past. Discussions with Band staff members were very fruitful as they have first hand experience working with the current restrictions of administering Band funding under INAC. Discussions centered around how that would improve self-governance with Kaska having the authority to set our own priorities.

Kaska Dena News is published three times a year by the Kaska Dena Council. For past issues go to:
www.kaskadenacouncil.com/newsarchives/newsletter-archive.

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