



KASKA

YOUTH GATHERING

25th - 27th August + Blue River, BC



Kaska National Youth Gathering

James Martens, Jordan Martens and Fred McMillan

Conway Kootenay engages DC Harlan Schilling in comedy routine

One of the highlights of the Youth Gathering was the hilarious humour of Conway Kootenay. **Uncle Deadly** got everyone laughing with his dance moves and rez humour. Hearing that Conway was going to be at the youth gathering brought out all ages who wanted to meet Conway and see his act. And he did not disappoint!

The archery tournament was a big hit. Each participant shot 5 arrows, with their best three shots as the score and they were able to do so with both their left and right. Surprisingly, many did better on their non-dominant hand! Our winners in order were **Mason Abou, Brandon Lux, and James Martens.**



At the end of August KDC held a Kaska National Youth Gathering for young adults, ages 18-34 at Blue River. It was a welcomed opportunity to gather for the first time since before the pandemic, and many Kaska voiced that this was the first time they had traveled back onto their traditional territory for years. It was a great step to welcoming those who don't live in the communities back onto the land and into community.



Daylu Dena Council offered the Blue River site for us to hold the event which turned out to be the perfect location. In preparation for the camp and in thanks for the contribution of using the space, we were able to update the Blue River camp for future use including replacing outhouse doors, purchasing wood stoves for the cabins, and installing electrical outlets and lights for both the kitchen and gathering space. Getting prepared to host the gathering was such a wonderful example of how well we can work together as so many people came out to lend a hand. Thank you to all that contributed!

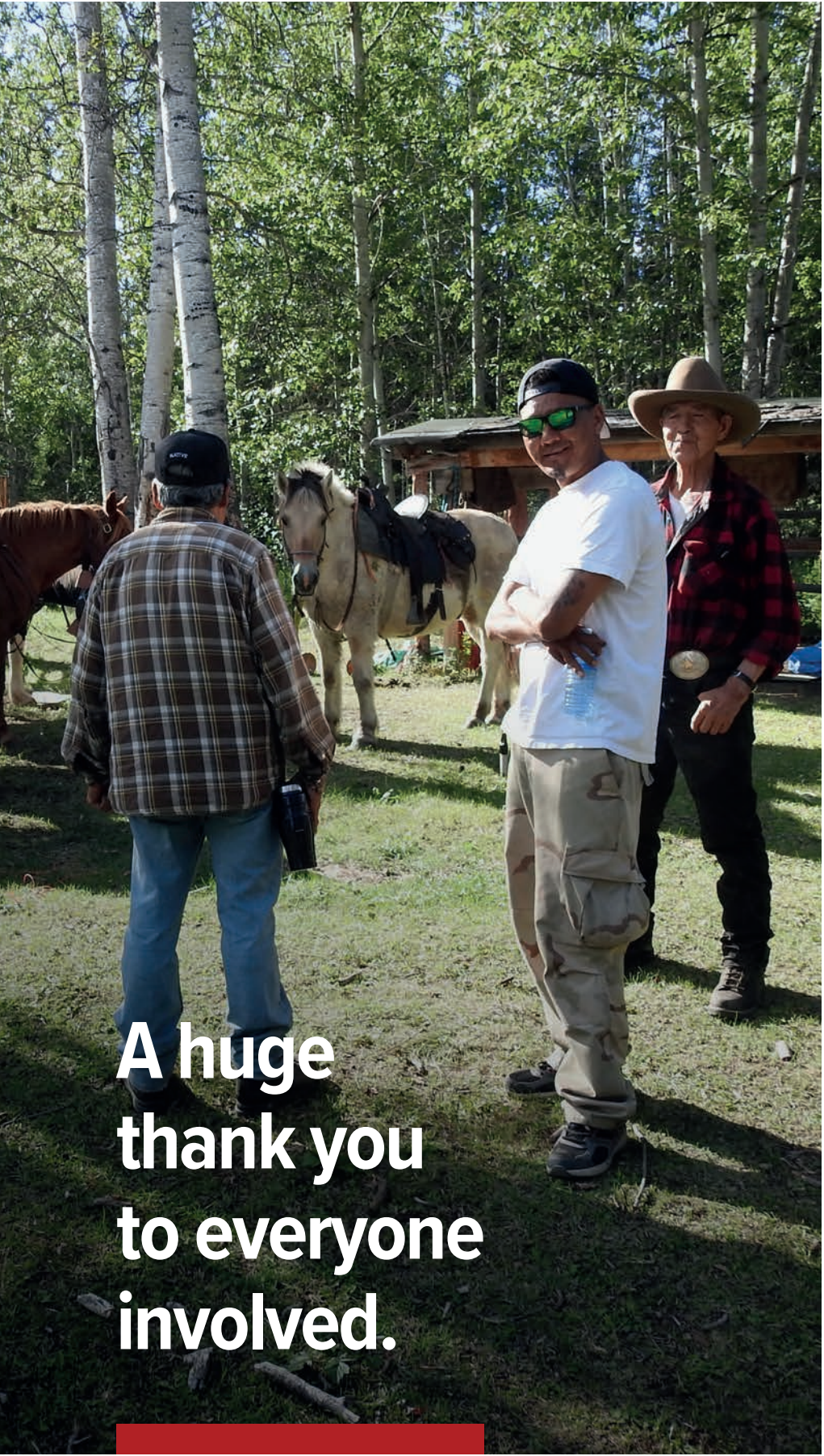
All ages came to enjoy Conway Kootenay's comedy



We also want to give a huge shout out to **Aiyana Carlick** for all her practice as she showed the most improved archer!

A fishing tournament provided hours of diligent efforts as there were lots of rods cast but very few bites. One of the most determined fishers was **Nick Porter** who fished and fished with no bites! Although he didn't end up getting a fish, he showed lots of patience, and we admire the work he put in. With a 14-inch fish, **Lacey Johnny** came in first place, followed by **Brandon Lux** who caught three fish on the first day, and in third place **James Martens.**

Jazmin Vance-Johnson, Arora Vance, Drey Vance, Paige Vance, Arianna Vance, Sadie Miller-Ball, Alex L, and Ben Laufer



**A huge
thank you
to everyone
involved.**

Fred McMillan brought his horses, which people always enjoy, and we are so thankful for Fred and his horses for giving us a scenic option to view the trails around the area.

The Self Determination workshop held by **Dave Crampton** and **Danny Case** sparked lots of conversations about what the future can hold for Kaska. They spoke with youth about the fact that KDC is no longer involved in Treaty negotiations, highlighting that unity for the Kaska Nation is key to engaging in the many opportunities UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) has to offer our people. They encouraged youth to step into leadership roles by offering possible opportunities they could champion.

Thanks to **Candice McMillan** and her childcare program parents were able to bring their children and have them well looked after. Thank you to Candice and Nicole for providing wonderful care for the children and providing such fun activities for them.

A huge thank you to all the participants, and to all the site workers, event planners, cooks, photographer, coordinators, and speakers.

The wildfire unfortunately caused the gathering to be cut short with everyone evacuated on Saturday morning, but we look forward to more gatherings out on our land in the future for all to enjoy.

*Jerry Porter, Adriane Porter,
and Fred McMillan*