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Employment Development Officer
Resource Management Coordinator
A/Resource Management Coordinator
A/Resource Management Coordinator
A/Negotiations Coordinator
Language Manager
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AAROM Technical Advisors

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DEHCHO GONDI

"Our laws from the Creator do not allow us to cede, release, surrender or extinguish our inherent rights. The leadership of the Dehcho upholds the teachings of the Elders as the guiding principles of Dene government now and in the future".

Greetings from the Dehcho Regional Office

In this very first edition of Dehcho Visions I have much to share as many activities have taken place since I was elected July 24, 2018 in Pehdzeh Ki. It was so surreal. I will never forget that day for many reasons including the smoldering heat as the temperature rose to +33 Celsius. Now, as I write this, not only is it already the month of January, that day is a blur as I literally 'hit the ground running' as the saying goes.

With my new posting as Grand Chief comes change on all fronts. As always, for many, it is very difficult to know what change looks like and what it really means especially when that includes changing course from how things were done for many years. We all have an insurmountable task ahead of us.

What is happening now is reshaping, refocusing and re-grouping ourselves in every aspects of Dehcho First Nation (DFN) organization. This includes working with the leaders in new directions and possibilities. Following are only some highlights of many events that took place. We have had three leadership caucuses, these focused meetings were meant for chiefs and Metis presidents only. The focused topics were to provide information so that the leaders could make more informed decisions. Also, to provide additional time for further discussions on specific topics that were not addressed appropriately at seasonal leadership meetings. We also participated in Dene Nation Annual Assembly in August and celebrated the signing of the Edehzhie Establishment Agreement in Fort Providence. So far, I have visited Nahanni Butte, Deh Gah Got'ie, Pehdzeh Ki and attended Liidlii Kue Chief and Council meeting. For Kakisa and Sambaa K'e, we are working on coordinating a time for a visit. Other very important topics of discussion were about climate change, education, health and setting up Edehzhie Management Board.



First and foremost, in the Dehcho Process negotiations, we are faced with making the most crucial decisions concerning our last Joint Offer from Government of NWT (GNWT) and Canada. I cannot stress enough how important it is to have those hard conversations and explore every avenue possible to arrive at the best innovative ways to support working together in this complex part of moving forward.

In listening, my sense is that we have shifted away so far from the original intent of Dehcho Process and our Elder's words of **'never let go of the land'** that the process is now unrecognizable. Therefore, we need to ask where are we and where are we really going? What is it that we really want to leave for our Dene future generations?

In closing, with the 2019 New Year upon us, lets bind into collective efforts to support each other in every aspects.

ISETS (ASETS)

Policy # 08 TRAINING / LIVING ALLOWANCES

Work Readiness Programs: (Academic Upgrading [ABE], Northern Lights Distance, Literacy & Essential Skills Programs [LES])

- \$850.00 monthly rate for full-time ABE/LES programs or three (5 credit courses of 125 hours class-time) distance high school courses per academic term
- Training allowances not provided for part-time studies of one-two (5 credit) distance high school courses per academic term
- Income Support Clients are eligible to receive a flat rate of \$5.00 per day to a maximum of \$100.00 per month based on actual attendance. As per Income Support rules, attendance and copy of monthly training allowance are forwarded to Income Support Worker

Skills Development Programs: (training programs less than six months in length)

- \$1,380.00 monthly rate for full-time Skills Development programs
- Training allowances not provided for programs less than one week in length (safety training, exploring change) or 2-3 hours per day (driver training)
- Income Support Clients are eligible to receive a flat rate of \$5.00 per day to a maximum of \$100.00 per month based on actual attendance. As per Income Support rules, attendance and copy of monthly training allowance are forwarded to Income Support Worker

Post-Secondary Top-Up Programs:

- **The purpose of SFA and ASETS top-ups is to supplement the cost of post-secondary education, not to cover all expenses.**
- All post-secondary applicants must secure primary funding assistance through other funding agencies or local employers as well as contribute financially to their education through summer employment, part-time employment, savings and careful planning.
- **If cost of living at school is greater than SFA and ASETS top-ups combined, clients will be responsible for difference in cost through part-time employment or student loans.**
- **Single No Dependents based on actual expenses:** o \$1,550 monthly rate for full-time students less SFA living allowance equals ASETS top-up

Post-Secondary with Dependents (amended—Motion #8, November 22, 2018 Fall Leadership)

- Post-Secondary Dependent care is provided to allow clients to concentrate on their studies without the added burden of worrying about the cost of their child's safety.
- **Single with One Dependent Child based on actual expenses:** \$2,350 monthly rate for full-time students less SFA living allowance equals ASETS top-up
- **Single with Two Dependent Children based on actual expenses:** \$2,750 monthly rate for full-time students less SFA living allowance equals ASETS top-up
- **Single with Three Dependent Children based on actual expenses:** \$3,150 monthly rate for full-time students less SFA living allowance equals ASETS top-up
- **Single with Four Dependent Children based on actual expenses:** \$3,550 monthly rate for full-time students less SFA living allowance equals ASETS top-up

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DFN Leadership Resolutions & Annual Assembly

2018 Winter Leadership Meeting—Fort Simpson

- Resolution #01 RE: Negotiations
- Resolution #02 RE: Investment Management Board 2018 Budget
- Resolution #03 RE: 2018 Annual Assembly Location
- Resolution #04 RE: Negotiations Preparedness Initiative Funding Proposal
- Resolution #05 RE: Nahe Náhodhee
- Resolution #06 RE: Mineral Exploration in the Dehcho

2018 Spring Leadership Meeting—Kakisa Lake

- Resolution #01 RE: Dehcho Process
- Resolution #02 RE: Dehcho Solidarity
- Resolution #03 RE: GNWT Land Lease Fees

2018 Annual Assembly—Wrigley

- Resolution #1 RE: Edehzhie
- Resolution #2 RE: Paramouncy of Assembly
- Resolution #3 RE: Equality
- Resolution #4 RE: Undah Gogha Royalty Allocation
- Resolution #5 RE: GNWT Land Lease Fees
- Resolution #6 RE: Dehcho Process
- Resolution #7 RE: Assemblies & Dehcho Governance

2018 Fall Leadership Meeting—Fort Simpson

- Resolution #01 RE: IMB
- Resolution #02 RE: Departmental Approach to Self-Government
- Resolution #03 RE: Denendeh Investment Incorporated
- Resolution #04 RE: Devolution
- Resolution #05 RE: Equality
- Resolution #06 RE: PKFN Jurisdiction over Highway
- Resolution #07 RE: WPFN

Resolutions are available on our website: www.dehcho.org and from each First Nation / Metis Local.

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

WOMEN'S CLIMATE WATERPROOF JACKETS	\$65.00
MEN'S FULL ZIP LIGHTWEIGHT HOODIE (BLACK & DARK CHARCOAL)	\$60.00
LADIES' FULL ZIP LIGHTWEIGHT HOODIE, OLYMPIC BLUE, WHITE & DARK CHARCOAL	\$50.00
LADIES' BELLA TRIBLEND T-SHIRTS (ROYAL BLUE)	\$22.00
MEN'S & WOMEN'S TANK TOPS (CHARCOAL & ROYAL BLUE)	\$30.00
DFN LONG SLEEVES (NAVY & MAROON)	\$40.00
SAFEGAURD ALUMINUM WALLET	\$ 8.00
POCKET NOTEBOOK WITH PEN	\$ 6.00
ZIPPERED TOOL KIT	\$15.00
TWILL CAP (BLACK & ROYAL BLUE)	\$25.00
BARSITY BACKPACK	\$20.00
BUG JACKETS	\$55.00
PONCHO RAIN JACKETS	\$ 5.00

AAROM

Dehcho AAROM had a busy summer and fall with monitoring and research projects and recently staff has been travelling to result workshops. The biggest news over the past year has been the hiring of Melaine Simba from Kakisa as the new Technical Advisor (AAROM Technician) and she will continue to work out of Kakisa. Her duties include entering data, organizing community programs around the Dehcho as well as coordinating projects she was formerly responsible for.

The summer, ENR water monitoring was successful in all Dehcho communities except for West Point which is in the process of forming a full Guardian program. West Point has begun to look for potential guardians and a boat and garage were purchased and constructed over the summer. AAROM guardians were also involved in the Willow Lake Youth Camp and the Dehcho First Nations canoe trip from Fort Simpson to Wrigley.

During August and September, Dr. Heidi Swanson from the University of Waterloo came north to continue her research into mercury levels in fish in varying lakes around the Dehcho. This year data was collected from Tathlina, Kakisa, Deep and McGill Lakes, with community Guardians being essential. This has been a long running project in the Dehcho with very good community participation; providing employment, food security and important research.

In October Mike Low and Melaine Simba attended the annual ENR Water Stewardship Workshop in Dettah, with various presentations being given on all water related issues as well as plenary sessions; Mike gave two 20 minute presentations on history of the mercury research in the Dehcho. In November Mike and Melaine also attended a roundtable discussion on community based water monitoring organized by the Gordon Foundation and WWF. This roundtable had the objective of leveraging support from the federal government for more community based monitoring projects.

In December, Heidi did community meetings to discuss her ongoing research; will include sampling at Tathlina, Kakisa, McGill, Deep, Big Island and Fish Lake involving the communities of Wrigley, Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River and Kakisa. Mike, Melaine and 3 community fisherman will also be carrying out a fishing project for DFO on Kakisa Lake, 200 walleye will be caught, sampled and given out to the community.

In the New Year, community meetings will be planned to discuss the upcoming years' work and we will be attending the upcoming Dehcho K'ehodi workshop in Fort Simpson.

NEGOTIATIONS

In Spring of 2018, Canada and GNWT made a Joint Offer to the DFN Negotiations Team. The Negotiations Team then brought the Joint Offer to the 2018 Spring Leadership Meeting for further discussion. It was recommended that this Joint Offer be discussed at the 2018 Dehcho Annual Assembly.

During the 2018 Dehcho Annual Assembly, the Federal and Territorial Negotiators presented the Joint Offer to the Dehcho Annual Assembly then had a question and answer period.

The Joint Offer will be discussed during a Special Assembly which will be held in the New Year.

LANGUAGE

Mentor-Apprentice Program

Kristen Tanche and I attended the First Nations Language Keepers Gathering in Saskatoon, November 21-22, 2018. This year's gathering marked the 13th year for this significant national gathering of language educators, Elders and leadership, champions and grassroots people. The two day gathering had a full schedule of keynote, panels and workshops.

The remarkable aspect of this gathering is from its inception, this event has been well supported and attended by a great number of language champions with well over 700 people in attendance. The two day gathering had a full schedule of keynote speakers, panels and workshops. It was very interesting to hear how and what the other language groups are doing in keeping the language alive.

The theme for this year was *Language First; Keep the Spirit Alive*. The focus was highlighted in order to be who we are in our many nations; we must put our languages first and become speakers.

We were honored to be one of the presenters. I did a power point presentation on the Mentor-Apprentice Program that we are undertaking. We wanted to share ways that DFN was working towards preserving, promoting and revitalizing the Dene Zhatie in the Dehcho Region. Kristen's presentation focused on Dehcho Yundaa Gogha Canoe excursion that took place in July 2018 from Fort Simpson to Wrigley prior to the Dehcho Annual Assembly. The presentation was well attended with a lot of feedback and questions from the audience after the presentation.

Violet Jumbo, Language Manager



November 2018—MAP Workshop, Fort Providence, NT

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Edehzhie Update

With the protection of Edehzhie, this will ensure that the Dehcho Dene relationship with the lands of Edézhíe is maintained for present and future generations through Dehcho-led guardian stewardship monitoring, and cultural activities.

Dehcho First Nations appreciate the help of Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation for assisting in the event.



Dehcho K'ehodi

Annual Gathering

The date has been set for January 29-30, 2019, for the annual Dehcho K'ehodi Gathering in Fort Simpson. The gathering will bring people together from each Dehcho Communities for two days.

Guardians & the Enbridge Line 21 Project

In the spring, 20 Guardians completed Regional Guardian Training program. Many of them continued on and worked as monitors on the Enbridge Line 21 replacement project. In October, the Line 21 project began its wrap up phase.

On the Land Programming

This past summer two regional led on the land programs were offered to youth of the Dehcho.

The Yundaa Gogha Canoe excursion brought 11 youth/young adults by canoe from Liidlii Kue to Pehdzeh Ki. Canoe Instructors, Elders, Cultural Knowledge Holders, Health and Wellness, and Language facilitators joined the group. The youth then participated in the Dehcho Assembly.

The annual Youth Ecology and Traditional Knowledge camp was held at Willow River in the Edehzhie Protected area in August, where 11 youth and staff travelled and spent the week learning about Science and Traditional Knowledge.

Dehcho First Nations also worked with Dene Nahjo, who delivered a Woman's Rights of Passage camp in Kakisa, NT with Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation.

Kristen Tanche, Acting Resource Management Coordinator



Photo Credit—Amos Scott

DFN MASTER TRUST

Elders Fund

The majority of communities used their funds to attend the Elder's conference in Edmonton, Elder's meeting in Fort Simpson while other communities held events in their communities.

IMB received written and final expense reports, which indicate that the communities attended the Elders Conference in Edmonton except Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation – they decided to hold an Elders Gathering on the land. The report indicated the event was a success.

IMB Investment

Barry Potter, the Project Manager for Nogha Enterprise from Fort Simpson contacted Tom Wooding to discuss options for submitting a request for funds to support their building project. Tom informed the Board he provided Mr. Potter the information and it would be an IMB decision.

At the April 23, 2018, CIBC quarterly meeting, Kathy Tsetso, Chair of IMB, declared conflict. Misty Ireland, Vice-Chair will be the contact person on this. To date, IMB has not received a proposal nor had further discussion on this project.

Tom Wooding indicated this would be an excellent investment opportunity with guaranteed long-term return.

2018-2021 Investment Management Board Strategic Plan

The IMB goals for the next three years reflect what the IMB is setting out to achieve in support of realizing its Vision and fulfilling its Mission for the Dehcho Membership.

West Point First Nation – Qualified Donee Status

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) informed the West Point First Nation (WPFN) that it is now registered as a qualified donee, effective March 24, 2017. The WPFN will now be included on the CRA public listing and will be able to issue receipts on donations received.

Forwarded to Lindsay MacPhie at CIBC Wood Gundy and will be reviewed by IMB's Lawyer at Duncan Craig LLP. This has an implication on our advance tax ruling request.

Challenges and Opportunities

- Taxation issues with income earnings and certain disbursement proposals.
- Cost of Administering and processing applications.
- Improved training opportunities for members through NATOA
- Finding the right way to maximize and support regional capacity to access and support disbursement processes that IMB contracts.
- Reluctance by membership to apply for funds from the IMB accounts.
- Recruitment of IMB Board members
- Market Volatility

IMB continues to work hard on your behalf to safe guard the “Golden Egg” while ensuring there is growth that supports the criteria set out in the Trust. We realize that investing in a good communication process, keeps membership aware and informed about the Trust, will increase member awareness and involvement, and assist us to overcome the challenges posed and lead to new opportunities for members.