



Dehcho Gõndi



30th Annual Assembly

We are at that time of year when we need to reschedule and start looking at getting the assembly off the ground. Attempts have been made to host the assembly in Kakisa, Hay River, and Nahanni Butte. Due to the fire situation, these plans did not work out. Over the last few

months, we have been trying to confirm a place to hold the 30th Annual Assembly. Numerous attempts have been made for Fort Providence, Hay River, and Fort Simpson. We have secured a location and time block for The 30th Annual Dehcho Assembly.

The assembly will occur in Fort Simpson, NT, on December 5 - 7, 2023. On December 4, 2023, plans are being prepared to host an Elders Youth Gathering in Fort Simpson. We hope to see everyone at the 30th Annual Assembly and the Elders Youth Gathering.



Message From the Grand Chief

By: Herb Norwegian, Grand Chief

Thanks for the opportunity to tune in here. The Dehcho has been busy catering to our membership over the last few months. Coming out of the fire season, and now we are into the fall, the snow is on the group. We are waiting for the rivers and creeks to freeze. It is a beautiful time of the year to relax and assess what happened over the summer months.

Now, we are moving on. We want to bring our people together for a good discussion in our assembly. We hope people can bring their full ears to listen in on what has been happening for the past year and a half since I was elected as your Grand Chief.

We have done several things over the past year and a half. We have been able to get negotiations back on track, and we have government headed in the right direction with us. We would like to hear some good words from Minister Gary Anandasangaree. Many items are on the horizon for us. It would be a significant breakthrough if we get movement on the resource management concept of shared stewardship. The idea of shared stewardship entertains both governments and believes it is a good approach. Our team is doing the best we can to present the best picture of this approach.

We plan to make a presentation to you and your communities at the assembly to understand what we are trying to do: secure all the land we have in our territory. We are hoping for a good direction to make good decisions moving forward. This is crucial in negotiations, and we need to pull camp and get moving. This is what we are up against.

I hope we have a great assembly that can put things in a positive spin, break for the Christmas season, go back in the bush, set your trap lines, and do what you usually do. We hope people keep an eye on each other and be safe throughout the season. We look forward to seeing you at the assembly to discuss what bothers us and what we must decide.

Take care of one another, and I will be supportive and do everything I can to help.

Mahsi Cho



Negotiations Update

By: Michael Nadli, Chief Negotiator

Wildfires have affected the progress of the Dehcho Process this quarter. Some negotiations meetings had to be postponed due to the natural disasters across the Dehcho. However, Negotiations sessions returned to normal in September 2023, with some exciting changes.

Firstly, the Dehcho Negotiations Team has reconstructed. Leona Tanche has moved onto a new position within Dehcho First Nations, Pauline Deneyoua has joined the team as our Negotiations Administrator, and Ramona Pearson, Resource Management Coordinator, will be transitioning into the team as the Assistant Negotiator. The incumbent Director of Lands and Resources will join the team to assist with negotiations around land and resources beginning November 27th. Sharon Allen, Language Manager, has moved on from Dehcho First Nations to pursue other passions. Dehcho First Nations would like to welcome Pauline and Ramona and thank Leona and Sharon for their contributions.

Secondly, the team is in its final legs of its community tour centered on the concept of resuming negotiations based on lands and resources. This follows the March community tours concerning the 2018 Joint Offer which was not supported by communities. Following the January resolution to explore other options for resuming negotiations on lands and resources, the Team decided to visit communities to gain feedback about alternatives to the 2018 Joint Offer before the Annual General Assembly. In October, the Dehcho Negotiations Team visited Nahʔą Dehé Dene Band, Tłets'éhk'edéł First Nation, Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation,

Sambaa K'e First Nation, Fort Providence Métis Council, and K'atl'odeeche First Nation. While the community tour has been successful in receiving feedback from community members, and Leaderships and councils, the Negotiations Team is still seeking feedback on renewing negotiations based on lands and resources since concluding the discussions around the 2018 Joint Offer. Further meetings with Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation are being scheduled into November. We are continuing efforts to arrange meetings with the remainder of the Dehcho communities. A copy of the community presentations and background information can be accessed on www.dehcho.org. Community comments can be submitted through e-mail to dfncommunications@bryanstrong.ca.

Current questions and feedback came back from the communities about devolution, land stewardship, community governance, and the proposed Interim Lands Working Group. Communities also explored the topics of education, community boundaries, and land leases. A common request was more community visits especially from the Dehcho Constitutional Working Group.

Finally, community engagement is on the rise. Virtual town halls have been an important tool to help provide updates to members and have open conversations about membership concerns. Our Virtual Town Hall Events are open to the public. Links to the event are available on Facebook, Dehcho.org, and posted in your communities. Presentation materials available can be requested through: dfncommunications@bryanstrong.ca. Our next Virtual Town Hall is on November 29 2023 from 7:00PM to 8:30PM.

PKFN Edézhíe Update



By: Nicole Hardisy, PKFN Community Coordinator

July:

Training: The PKFN Edézhíe Guardians and I attended a 2-day Training for Phase 1 Contaminated sites in Yellowknife, NT with ECCC and K'alo Stantec. In-class training took place on the first day, and on the second day, the instructors demonstrated how an environmental remediation process is completed.

EMB: PKFN Guardians had the opportunity to patrol the Horn River with the Edézhíe Guardians while I attended, with our new intern PKFN EMB member Jay Horesay, the 2-day EMB meeting in Fort Providence, NT, July 10-13, 2023. While in attendance, we could speak on the topic to assist the Edézhíe Planner to have more input from the guardians to fill in the gap in the Management plan chapters.

Cabin

By the end of the month, the PK Edézhíe Guardians were tentatively working on the cabin, with the help of LKFN and JMR Edézhíe Guardians, and had completed the construction. Work still needs to

be done around the camp to have it. I was able to upload the PKFN Edézhíe cabin and patrol pictures on the Edézhíe Dropbox. Edézhíe Guardians are excited to have somewhere warm to stay in the Winter months for Patrolling and Monitoring the Willow River corridor. Working together to complete the cabin by late fall was a huge success.

August:

Low Waters: This past summer, we in the Dehcho have noticed low water levels. The guardians had reported very low waters on the Willow River corridor. The PKFN Guardians have been monitoring and harvesting for local elders on the Mackenzie River. Our Elders have been able to eat Traditional food that were harvested, they all applauded each time food was cleaned and brought to them.

I sent an email for review to Freddie and Jamie regarding the PKFN Edézhíe CC and Guardians report for DFN to gather information from a Guardians perspective (boots on the ground) and the Draft EMB minutes July 11-12, 2023. Unfortunately, the 30th Dehcho Annual Assembly in Nahanni Butte, NT, was postponed due to wildfires affecting NWT

communities. This summer was a devastating year for the NWT. I want to send my warm wishes to each person and community that was deeply affected and had to evacuate their homes/communities.

September:

On September 11 – 15, 2023, the LKFN Community Coordinator and 5 Guardians patrolled and Montoiring together. Spending time as a whole on the land has brought the staff together and able to learn from each other. In Times like this, the guardians can share knowledge of different areas.

I spoke with an intern PKFN EMB member regarding having an Elders & Harvesters Committee (EHC) meeting, and it was suggested by our EMB member to schedule an EHC meeting after the PKFN Annual General Assembly to get PKFN members' perspective on the Edézhíe Protected Area/National Wildlife Area. These meetings are very important to educate each other on the progress in the Protected area and the progress the guardians are making. We have come a long way since this program began. I'm proud to be able to work with the Edézhíe Program, staff and DFN employees.

During peak seasons, the PKFN Edézhíe crew presented the Edézhíe PowerPoint presentation to the Chief Julian Yendo School, showing what the Edézhíe Guardians are & what it means to be an Edézhíe Guardian and helping educate youth about the Edézhíe Protected Area, the importance of how the Edézhíe was established into a National Wildlife Area, and how the EHC provides knowledge and advice about Edézhíe to the parties and the EMB. We also look forward to continuing working together to teach and educate our youth that these Guardian programs are showing around the world that they bring great success. At the end of the day, we are all Guardians of the lands and waters

October:

Edézhíe Signs: PKFN Edézhíe signs were delivered from ECCC for the Edézhíe Protected Area. We had a Zoom meeting regarding the installation of the PKFN Edézhíe signs. In spring 2024, the Edézhíe Guardians will be out placing the sign on the Boundary lines of Edézhíe, and we will be placing (2) on the Willow River corridor boundary lines.

Training: We attended the Edézhíe Guardians Eyes

and Ears Training program in Ft. Providence, October 16-20, 2023. The training was very informative on how to approach, in a friendly & assertive manner, an individual who is within the Edézhíe National Wildlife Area and what questions to ask. We now know and have the proper tools and knowledge of this process. We were able to gain knowledge.

Retrievals of ARU'S & Wildlife Cameras: Before the Edézhíe Staff 1 month Off, Our PKFN Edézhíe Guardian, Jamie Moses, went to Ft. Simpson to complete fieldwork by helping to retrieve ARU's in the last five areas they couldn't get to last year with 1 LKFN Edézhíe Guardian Kurt Tsetso and Samuel Hache, CWS. They had planned to finish the work in 4-5 days. They were able to complete the fieldwork in 1 day. Working together shows that anything is possible.

DGG Edézhíe Update

By: Trisha Landry, DGG Community Coordinator



flights around the DGG area. Edézhíe Guardian Henry Sabourin, Trisha Landry was requested to assist with the flyover of the herds of buffalo in the Protected area and around the Deh gah area to visually check if there were any signs of potential anthrax in the area, and there was NONE reported in the area. We have learned and gained knowledge over the past two years during these flights. Mahsi for GNWT for requesting us to pair up to monitor the Buffalo.

Historic Forrest fires: This past summer, we all were affected by the Historic Forrest fires here in the NWT. Fort Providence members and Guardians were able to assist in different ways during those times. We, the Edézhíe Staff, took the opportunity to help the evacuees here in our community by providing them with personal tents, blankets, and water. The DGG Guardians also took the time to harvest traditional food as requested. They cleaned and delivered to members who were also asking for country food during the spring flood in Hay River and the forest fires,

Training: Edézhíe staff travelled to Yellowknife July 4-6 for contaminated sites training. This consisted of one and a half days of in-room class sessions and one afternoon in the field, with time to learn about soil testing. It was great to see it done in person. The fieldwork will help prepare us for the upcoming clean-up of contaminated sites within the Protected Area.

Monitoring Buffalo: GNWT ECCC yearly scheduled anthrax

We just finished taking "Eyes n Ears" training in Fort Providence



with the Guardians. We found the training very informative when approaching someone who is not supposed to be in the field without a permit and doing what they are not supposed to be doing. The training was beneficial, and the Enforcement officer is willing to come into the field with us when needed.

Providence for on-the-land projects. This year, we were requested to assist the LKFN Guardians with the School culture camp across the river from the community of Fort Simpson. They helped clear brush and cut large trees so it was safe for teachers and students to enjoy being on the land.

Working with Communities and Schools: The schools have approached the Guardians in Fort Simpson and Fort

LKFN Edézhíe Community Coordinator Darren Hardisty



has been coordinating future work with the school in Fort Simpson with DDEC Ms. Cli. This work planned will have a trail from the school camp towards the Edézhzié Boundary line. In the future, we would love to have school activities happen in all four communities surrounding Edézhzié, Wrigley, Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River, and Fort Providence.

DGG Edézhzié Guardians assisted our Wellness Centre/ Staff with a Community Camp located at Horn River within the protected area at the old summer camp location. They also joined in with activities with the youth. While working alongside the Wellness Camp, the guardians harvested for the community camp. We were successful with the hunt. The

guardians showed the youth how to process the moose meat, clean the hide and cook the meat over open fire. The guardians also assisted with required camp maintenance, including making a cook shack, helping gather wood, and other requested tasks to have a Camp run smoothly.

Edézhzié Boundary Signs: We received our signs from ECCC for the Edézhzié protected area. The guardians could travel by ATVs to put up one sign on the Horn River Road right by a harvester's area called "Calvert's".

The other sign will be put up on the harvester's trail towards Willow Lake. The last sign will be placed at the local boat launch.

This location has been requested to have a sign placed there, as many people launch their boats, and they are not members of the NWT. Visitors from the south need to be educated about our newly Protected area and understand that they are required to apply for a Permit to Enter our Protected Area of Edézhzié.

Thank You Allan



There are far better things ahead than we ever leave behind -Retire from work, but not from life.

Allan will continue to teach and work on his traditional way of life.

Mahsi Allan, for your hard work and dedication. Enjoy your retirement.





LKFN Edézhíe Update

By: Darren Hardisty, LKFN Community Coordinator

The Edézhíe LKFN Coordinator Darren Hardisty writes this Report. All activity is summarized for June to September 2023.

Wilderness First Aid Course: Was completed over four days. This course consists of the guardians spending half of the day in a classroom and the other half performing mock accidents in the field. We successfully passed the course and received our certificates. This training is Mandatory for our positions, as we work in very remote areas in Edézhíe.

Willow River Cabin Build: The LKFN and PKFN guardians spent 9-days at the Willow River cabin site. We slashed brush around the camp to construct a cabin and fire-smarting. Four walls and roof rafters were installed for the cabin. The cabin was sheeted with plywood, and windows, a tin roof, and a door were installed. Working collaboratively was great teamwork. Each of us brought forward our strengths.

We look forward to staying with the PK Edézhíe guardians during the seasons to collect data and monitor the watersheds of the Willow River in the protected area.

While we were up the Willow River, we could harvest traditional foods for Wrigley and Fort Simpson communities. One of the mooses harvested was brought to Trout Lake evacuees who were evacuated to Fort Simpson due to a forest fire near the community. The Samba Ke members were very honoured to receive the meat. They could gather as a community, fix and

prepare the meat in a devastating time, as they were evacuated from their homelands.

Patrolling: We were doing River patrols on the Mackenzie River and have been monitoring and recording wildlife. The guardians monitor the two watersheds that flow out of Edézhíe, Rabbit Skin River and the Willow River. River patrols continued for the four months of the boating season. During that time, we recorded active fires along the Mackenzie River, also known as smoke patrols.

Safety boat for National Aboriginal Day Canoe Races: Edézhíe Guardians were asked by the LKFN band office to assist with a safety boat for the Canoe races. The canoe races are an Annual event that LKFN office hosts. The paddlers start from the Liard ferry crossing and end at the beach in front of the harbour. All racers did a fantastic job.

Training: Contaminated Sites Clean-Up Training with Stantec in Yellowknife. The Edézhíe team travelled to Yellowknife for a 3-day training. This training consisted of how to assess and manage contaminated sites properly. We are scheduling a meeting with LKFN band in the new year to work with our members to help map out old campsites within the protected area that need to be cleaned and have old waste materials removed from the protected area. Clean lands, clean water = Healthy people, healthy lands, Pristine Waters.



The Edézhíe Guardians and Community Coordinators attended a 3-day training session with ECCC. We were trained on enforcement, field notes, and approaching people in the protected area. The training was excellent to fully understand our roles as Guardians and Enforcement when we are in the field.

EMB: Edézhíe Management Board meeting in Fort Providence from July 11-13. All Edézhíe staff, including the Board members, attended and received valuable information. The Edézhíe guardians were able to speak to topics that were asked from the board since we work in the protected area, and we can give the correct information to the Edézhíe Planner.

Maintenance: We have been working on our equipment to ensure our equipment is running and performing properly in the field. We have scheduled maintenance periods for our chainsaws, brush kings, generator, and boat motor. I'm working with the regional coordinator to ensure we can attend the course for small engine repairs. Again, we work most of our time in very remote areas, which means we would be required to be able to fix equipment on the fly for us to complete our work duties while in the field.

Working with the communities Liidlii Kue Elementary School culture camp maintenance- The camp is across the river from Fort Simpson. We had DDG and JMR guardians come to assist us in cleaning, grass cutting, brush cutting, and tree falling, which was required to help fire-smart the area. At the school's request, we also tore down old rotten structures from the area.

Fire smart around the community: We were asked by the CEO of

the village of Fort Simpson if the guardians can help with Clearing Brush on Antione Drive. 5 days of brush clearing to help with the Fire break on the back road.

We will continue to work and assist wherever we can to help with the community fire breaks.

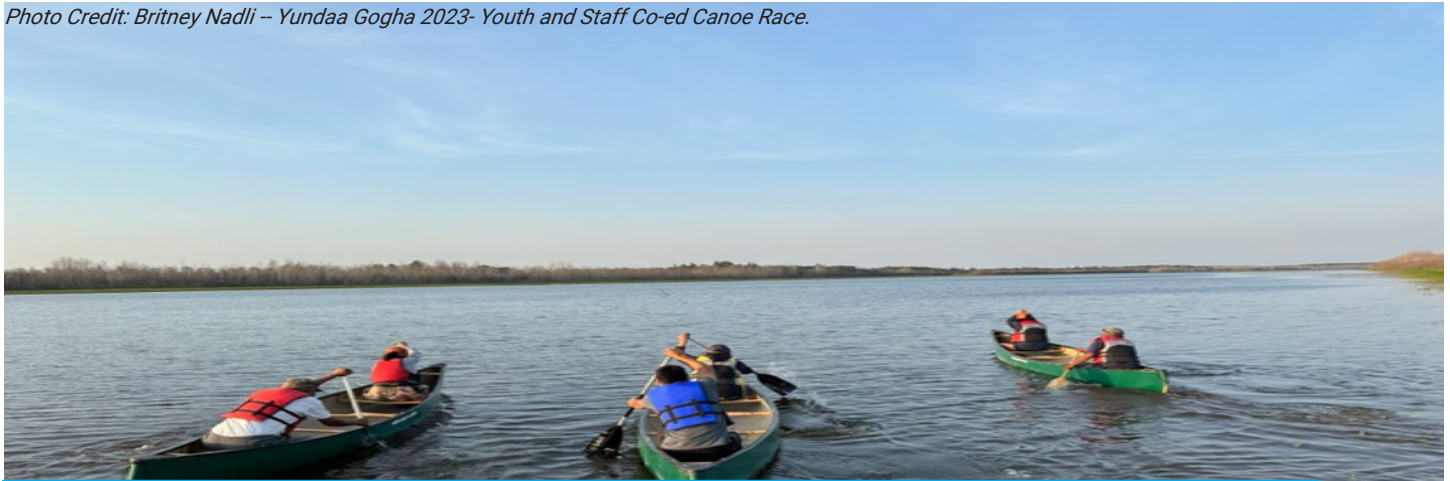
Retired Guardian: Allan Bonnetrouge retired from his position as an LKFN guardian this past fall. He worked hard for the last four years and ensured that traditional knowledge was transferred to all the guardians - Thank you for your years of service, Allan.

Edézhíe Boundary Signs: The Edézhíe signs from ECCC for the protected area arrived in Fort Simpson along with JMR and PKFN's signs. We delivered the signs to their respective communities. Edézhíe Boundary Signs will be placed on the Boundary lines of the Edézhíe Access trails.

Biodiversity/Field Work Retrieval of the Cameras and ARU's: Edézhíe guardians Kurt and Jamie where the two guardians that went on a camera and ARU retrieval with Samuel Hache. The work plan we had was for three days in the field. They were able to wrap up this project in one day. The weather conditions were in our favour and made it easy for them to fly to the location. We are happy to update everyone that this project is Completed.

Health and Wellness Update

Photo Credit: Britney Nadli -- Yundaa Gogha 2023- Youth and Staff Co-ed Canoe Race.



Health and Wellness Division Update

By: Kristen Tanche, Director of Health and Wellness, Britney Nadli, On the Land Coordinator, & Karen Felker, Health and Wellness Programmer

The Dehcho First Nations Health and Wellness Division is comprised of:

Health & Wellness Director, Kristen Tanche,
Health & Wellness Programmer, Karen Felker
Health & Wellness Administrator/Birthing Project Coordinator,
Emily Hardisty Marcellias
On the Land Coordinator Britney Nadli

In addition to the staff, the division works with casual staff like Cindy Browning and multiple contractors like Kathy Tsetso, Amanda Blair and more.

DFN has also continued to bring together the Dehcho First Nations Health & Wellness Working Group. This year, the group met for a one-day meeting in July 2023. Their next meeting is set to happen in January or February 2024.

DFN also brought together Indigenous Office Administrators and Leaders where they received an update on Health & Wellness, provided direction to DFN on the Patient Advocate Project and provided feedback in other health and wellness-related areas.

The past year, there has been an increase in activity in Health & Wellness as the division has taken on **new projects**, worked with communities in **new and existing funds** and delivered **regional on-the-land and healing programs**.

New Projects

Patient Advocate Program: Dehcho First Nations (DFN) has

been working with Dehcho organizations and the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Agency (NTHSSA) (Government of the Northwest Territories) to expand its Indigenous Patient Advocacy Program. A position was advertised with the NTHSSA until November 14, 2023. The regional position will be based in Liidlii Kue/Fort Simpson.

DFN will also soon be advertising a position to develop, with communities, a DFN led Patient Advocate program that would not replicate the NTHSSA program but work complementary with it.

Northern Birthwork Collective Partnership: DFN and the Northern Birthwork Collective (NBC) have partnered with the aim of more Dehcho people accessing their services and to provide more variety of programs and services to pregnant people from the Dehcho.

NBC provides support in abortion, birthing, prenatal, lactation and infant feeding, and pregnancy loss through their staff of birthworkers and doulas. Please see their website for more information <https://www.northernbirthwork.com>

This fall, NBC, supported by DFN, held a Dehcho Meeting in Zhahti Kue (Fort Providence). There were participants from almost every Dehcho community, ranging from pregnant women, Elders, Indigenous Office Staff and community members. The focus of the gathering was to share about NBC's programs and to provide space to receive community feedback on a Dehcho Birthworker Pilot Program.

Regional Mobile Wellness Team: DFN has started planning a regional mobile wellness team and hopes to complete a study by the spring or summer of 2024. There is much planning to be done and community visits that DFN aims to do.



Left Photo Credit: Britney Nadli -Yundaa Gogha 2023- Maintenance worker, Michael Lacorne teaching youth how to check the fishnets on the Mackenzie River.



Right Photo Credit: Britney Nadli -Yundaa Gogha 2023- Elders participating in Wellness presentation made by William Greenland.

New and Existing Funds: DFN worked with member organizations this past year on several funds received from the Federal Government of Canada and one fund from the Government of the Northwest Territories. Some funds were the COVID Public Health Fund, Mental Wellness Funds and the Mental Wellness and Addictions Recovery Fund.

DFN continues to work with its member communities and these funds. Some funds have been completed, and others will be completed this fiscal year (before March 31, 2024). Many communities have delivered community-based programs with the funds.

Please note that each fund DFN works with has specific guidelines that each organization must follow. Therefore, they are used for specific programs and projects. If you would like more information, please get in touch with the Dehcho First Nation's Health & Wellness Director.

Regional On-the-Land and Healing Programming: Several programs have been delivered this year, and several more are being planned.

On the Land Programming - Completed

- Yundaa Gogha On the Land Program. The program was hosted in the Zhahti Kue (Fort Providence) area and at Horn River in the Edhezhie. It was available to all Dehcho Youth and included canoe training and an Elder & Youth Gathering. Everyone participated in various traditional and language activities and sessions around health, wellness, and self-determination. The program was open to the community of Zhahti Kue and saw more than 40 community members drop in.

Upcoming programs

- **Dehcho Supporting Wellbeing Training** in January 2024.
- **Annual Dehcho K'ehodi Gathering** in 2024.

- **Dehcho Youth Focus Groups** to gather information from youth about how DFN can improve On the Land programs. To be announced.
- **The 2024 Yundaa Gogha Program** will be done in collaboration with Parks Canada in the Nahanni National Park, in the summer of 2024.
- **The Youth Ecology & Traditional Knowledge Camp** was postponed this year due to wildfires. The program will be hosted in 2024.

Regional Healing Programs - Completed:

- **Follow-up Healing Program-** This program was offered to people who completed the 2022 healing program. Due to the wildfires, the plans had to change numerous times. Eventually, a smaller program was provided to those who had moved to Alberta in Edmonton.
- **2023 Regional Dehcho Journey to My Best Self Program-** The 3rd annual healing program was delivered at North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge at Cli Lake for 20 days in August. The group participated in a cultural and land-based healing experience led by Shakes the Dust Hope Consulting and Frank and Bev Hope.

Upcoming programs

- **Follow-up Healing Program-** A follow-up healing program will be offered this winter for the 2023 Program Participants and some 2022 program participants.
- **2024 Regional Dehcho Journey to My Best Self Program-** A 4th annual healing program will be offered in August 2024. DFN will seek to secure a location in the region over the next few months. Stay tuned for more information.

For more information or detailed inquiries, please get in touch with Kristen Tanche, Regional Health & Wellness Director, at kristen_tanche@dehcho.org.

AAROM Update

By: Mike Low, AAROM Program Coordinator

Good day, Dehcho members. I want to start by wishing everyone well, especially after this tough summer.

Dehcho AAROM was affected by the spring and summer evacuations. However, due to the hard work of the communities and team members, we could complete most of the scheduled projects. This is fantastic, great job!

Since the last update, multiple projects have been carried out. In Deh Gah Gotie, funds were accessed to add a second boat patrol to monitor non-local anglers. The second crew comprises Joseph Lacorne and Stewart Nadlii and will be responsible for interviewing anglers. The new crew started this year during the Hay River evacuation and was mentored by the Joe Lacorne and Stephen Nadlii.

Deh Gah Gotie also carried out the 3rd annual DGGFN fish camp at Horn River. Once again, this success was due to local efforts by band members.

This year, Dehcho AAROM also made an effort to contact the GNWT and the Canadian government regarding enforcement of the recreational fishery. This engagement did not produce any results. It seems that after devolution, there is no indication of who should enforce the recreational fishery.

Moving on, Jean Marie River was initially scheduled to host a fish camp that would see several initiatives taking place, including a bio-accessibility study (how cooking decreases mercury), a video on the Dehcho mercury study and a fish down study. Due to fire evacuations, these

projects did not occur. However, due to the overwhelming response from the community, Dehcho AAROM and JMRFN coordinated a fish camp at Ekali Lake in September, which was a great success. Many Dehcho attended, and time was spent setting fish nets to collect fish for the communities.

Our ongoing study into mercury in Dehcho lakes and fish was in jeopardy this year due to the evacuations, however once again due to the communities and Dehcho Guardians, we could sample 3 lakes. Cli, Antoine and Caribou lakes were all sampled this year by crews made up of Heidi Swanson and members of Liidlii Kue First Nation and Jean Marie River First Nation.

This winter, we will engage with Liidlii Kue First Nation and Jean Marie First Nation to review the results. Then, plans are to meet with Deh Gotie and Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation to discuss sampling at Hornell and Dogface Lakes. This project continues to grow, and we are now looking at algae in subsistence lakes and methods to decrease mercury consumption through different cooking methods. We have also continued to show there are no concerns in the Dehcho regarding mercury and fish consumption.

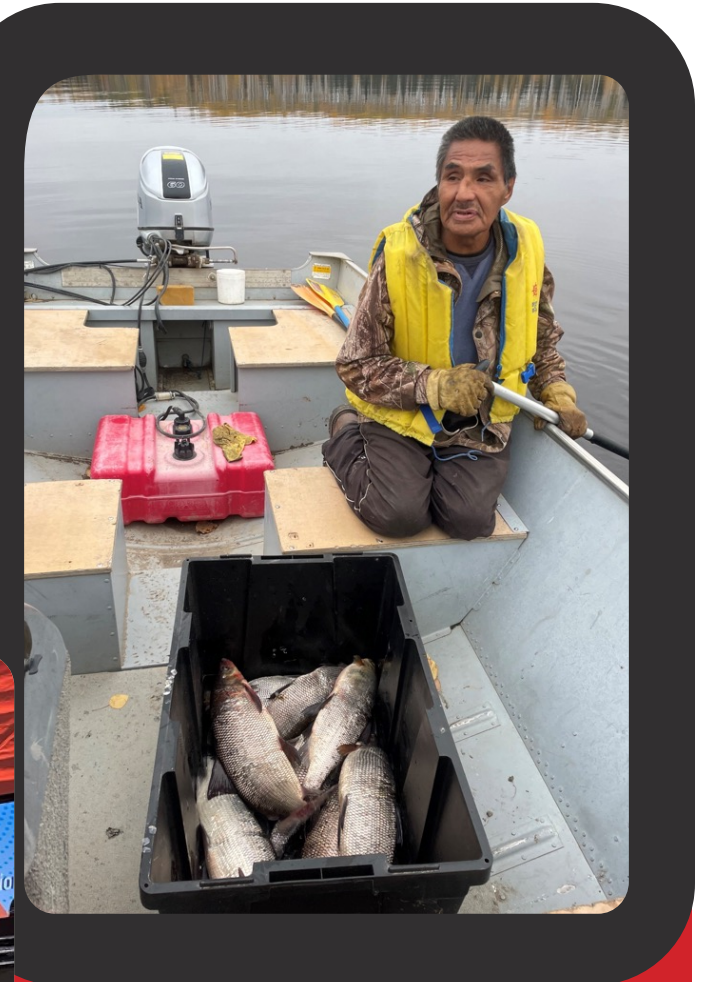
All Dehcho AAROM Guardian programs took place this year and were successful. Results from these projects will be presented at the Dehcho K'ehodi Gathering in February.

In November, the AAROM Coordinator was invited to a Parliamentary Event hosted by the Indigenous Leadership Initiative to lobby the federal government for continued Guardian funding. This event included a full teepee and longhouse set

up in front of the Parliament building with many senators and MPs in attendance.

Finally, Dehcho AAROM has training initiatives planned for 2023/24; the first is a wilderness first aid course in Hay River from December 4th to 8th. The First Aid course was full, with 12 people participating from Nahanii Butte, Pehdzeh ki First Nation, Deh Gah Gotie First Nation, West Point First Nation and Jean Marie First Nation. Efforts are being made to train new Guardians who still need to get these certificates. The second training course is the SVOP/ MEDA3 boat training, held in Hay River during the spring.

Mahsi!



Long time Dehcho Guardian, Angus Sanguetz checking nets.

Picture of Frank Brown from the ILI performing a traditional dance

Lands and Resources Update

By: Ramona Pearson, Resources Management Coordinator

Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda Calls for Dehcho Proposal

Dehcho First Nations Resource Management Coordinator met with the Indigenous Climate Leadership team along with resource managers across the Dehcho in September. ICL's intentions are to inform changes to the relationship between Dehcho First Nations and the Government of Canada that support self-determined climate action in the region following what was heard about the 2016 Clean Growth & Climate Change Strategy. The 2016 report's feedback found areas of concern such as a lack of Indigenous voices in the strategy, lack of long-term capacity funding, and inefficiencies in accessing, transferring, and reporting on current funding opportunities related to climate change and its impacts.

To address these concerns, the ICL team presented an overview of their new engagement project and initiated a call to action, proposing that the Indigenous Governments in the Dehcho region participate in the process to inform better federal climate action funding policies for the future. Dehcho First Nations has been offered \$300,000 to help facilitate the process through this fiscal year and the next. These numbers are based on Dehcho's preferred level of community-led engagement. It has been expressed to the ICL team that community engagement is a priority for this type of work and it is not a preference of the Dehcho communities to give direction only from the regional office as not all communities are equal in their needs and concerns. It is the ICL's hopes that Dehcho First Nations will be able to help engagement for the Dehcho region, and they are open to exploring what that engagement process looks like. As ICL is open to Dehcho First Nations facilitating a

community-led approach to engagement, ICL's intentions are to gain Leadership endorsement to be able to process a proposal to access this funding and better determine how the work will be carried out in the future.

There has also been an invitation to invite a representative from the Dehcho to a steering committee to be better able to coordinate further work.

Timeline:

- ICL to approach Cabinet in fall, 2024
- Secure budget funding for 2025
- Implementation in 2026-2027

Key Dates:

- 2023/2024 Mid-January end of new funding arrangements for ICL
- Climate Leadership meeting scheduled for February 6-8 (in-person)
- June/July deadline to develop materials to reflect recommendations from First Nations regional leads for federal decision-makers.

PFP Negotiations Continue for NWT: Land, Life, Future (Project for Finance Permanence) Final Agreement

In November 2022, the Government of Canada announced that \$800M will be negotiated between four regions in Canada to support Indigenous-led conservation efforts and help Canada protect 30% of lands by 2030. The Northwest Territories was chosen as one of those regions. Dehcho has been helping coordinate the participation of Indigenous Governments in the Dehcho to negotiate a Framework Agreement between IGs, the GNWT, Canada, and private donors, which will help determine details about the PFP fund. The Project for Finance Permanence was recently renamed as NWT: Land, Life, Future.

Many of the Dehcho First Nations'

membership signed the PFP Framework Agreement at a signing ceremony in Yellowknife in October. The Framework Agreement will continue to be negotiated until a final agreement is drafted for December, which will be available for Leadership to review. The current focus of the Parties in drafting the Final Agreement is Financial Oversight and modelling of governance structures to prepare for a submission to the Treasury Board of Canada. DFN has onboarded several resources management representatives from Protected Areas Communities to help with this work.

Dehcho representation and voices have been pivotal in achieving this work; congratulations to everyone for their hard work so far!

PFP Working Group Committee members
Stan Sanguet, DFN representative
Ashley Menicoche, Edézhíe representative
Vacancy
Vacancy

Subcommittee Representatives (Legal/ Technical, Communications, and Federal Engagement)

Misty Ireland, JMR representative
John Sexsmith, WPFN representative
Ramona Pearson, DFN representative

Onboarding a New Resources Director

As of November 27, 2023, Dehcho First Nations has onboarded a new Resources Director. Dehcho First Nations staff will be working closely with Jessica Jumbo to get her trained and familiar with the roles and responsibilities of her new position. Welcome, Jessica!



Education and Training Update

By: Josanne Kenny, Education and Training Manager

The ISET Program has been busy since the beginning of the fiscal year offering several training opportunities, these include:

- Class 3 Driver Training
- Class 4 Driver Training
- Class 5 Driver Training
- Class 7 Driver Training
- Wilderness First Aid
- Canadian Firearms Safety Course
- Chainsaw Safety Training

We partnered with Nogha Enterprises and funded the Carpentry Skills Training program in Fort Simpson. We partnered with Deh Gah Gotie First Nation and funded the Sawmill Training program. We partnered with Arctic Energy Alliance

and funded training for the Wood Energy Technology Transfer program.

We partnered with Aurora College and provided training allowances for participants in the Introduction to Skilled Trades Essentials program offered in Katlodeeche First Nation.

In April we brought several Grade 12 students down south on a post-secondary tour. In July we partnered with Aurora College and funded part of the Trades Awareness Program for high school students. We are offering another post-secondary tour for Grade 12 students Nov 13-16th.

We are providing ISET Top-Up funding to 26 students, Post-Secondary Student Support Program funding to 21 students, and University and College Entrance Preparation Program funding to 5

students.

We are accepting proposals from communities and organizations interested in accessing the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care fund. This funding can be used for early learning and child care service delivery, training and skills development, infrastructure costs, operating costs, materials, etc. If you would like to know more about this program, please contact the Education & Training Manager.



Dehcho First Nations

Strong, Proud, Happy People.
We the Dene of the Dehcho have lived on our homeland
according to our own laws and system of government
since time immemorial.

9414 - 100 Street

Fort Simpson, NT, Canada

Ph: 867-695-2610

Fax: 867-695-2038

E-Mail: receptionist@dehcho.org