

YTC Connection

SPECIAL XMAS EDITION



WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION

We are pleased to introduce the **Yellow-head Tribal Council Connection** for your reading pleasure. This is a significant first issue for bringing you up to date information regarding the operations of the Yellowhead Tribal Council, as well as the many programs and services we provides to our Nation members. This is part of the mandate for communications from our Nations Chiefs and the Administration of

YTC to the Nations membership. Over the years, YTC has evolved from its early days in 1977 to a complex, multi-faceted organization that provides top tier services and advocacy services on behalf of our member Nations. Our Nations include: Alexander First Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, O'Chiese First Nation and Sunchild First Nation. We have a proud and storied his-

tory that we will be conveying to you, the reader over the next few pages. Keep in mind this will be an ongoing process and that we will be bringing you updates on our various programs and significant milestones as they happen. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our Nations membership and look forward to showcasing YTC.

Volume 1, Issue 1

DECEMBER 2019

Special points of interest:

- ⇒ 6841 - # of Band Members YTC Serves
- ⇒ 1643 - # of clients YTDF served over the past 4 years
- ⇒ 200+ - Number of Students YTC funds annually
- ⇒ 1977 - Year YTC was established

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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Ah, Christmas, a time for gathering with our families and friends to celebrate the holidays together. A mixture of good cheer, laughter, warmth and spending money. Of course managing money when shopping is one of the most hectic activities a mom, dad, kukum or moshum can

survive during the holidays; with the known traffic, line-ups in the stores and the elevated prices to contend with. However, we know it is all worth it when you see the look of happiness on your child's face when they are tearing open the presents. Something about that really reminds a person

of why they are here to enjoy the Christmas season in the first place. Enjoy your holidays with family, friends and most importantly...the kids. After all this is the reason we will continue to do it all over again next year!

From the Chief Executive Officer

First of all, I would like to thank you for your time in reading this *newsletter* as part of our efforts to ensure that our Nations members are up to date on the activities for the Yellowhead Tribal Council. This newsletter is an important first step to creating consistent communication strategies with our respective nations. I would also like to wish all of you a safe and warm holiday season with your families and friends. It is my honor to serve as the Chief Executive Officer and have been doing so for the past 6 years. I have great staff that I work with everyday from our nations and with everyone's combined efforts; we are proud to say that we deliver programs and services to our people that are second to none. We have evolved so much as an organization and our mandate will always be collective growth today, for the benefit of tomorrow. A thank you to our nations Chiefs as well for their support and advocacy on important issues and challenges that we face on a daily basis. Our collective thought and strategic thinking enables us to document and form strategies that address key and significant issues together. Going forward, the Yellowhead Tribal Council will continue to evolve and grow and form key and strategic partnerships that will enable us to achieve goals and objectives for the benefit of our Nations members.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve our nations and we are very excited to welcome 2020 for the Yellowhead Tribal Council.



Laverne Arcand
Chief Executive Officer



YTC: A History and Evolution

The Yellowhead Tribal Council formed in 1977 to work on political issues and facilitate delivery of programs and services for each Nation in a fair, equitable, and responsible manner. We have grown to employ more than 50 full-time staff within the following program and advisory service areas: administration, finance, technical services, education, health, corrections, ASETS, and environment. Our accomplishments are significant, many, and varied. The college has grown in its thirty years of continuous operations from a small upgrading program into an independent institution offering a range of certificate and diploma programs designed to meet the needs of our Nations. We have consistently managed to secure financial support from the province and from the federal government. Our Post-Secondary Partnerships Program proposals have been successful even beyond our expectations, which is particularly meaningful as the PSPP is open to all post-secondary institutions, not just First Nations colleges. Our positive



relationship with all levels of government is apparent across all units within the Yellowhead Tribal Council's administration. Together with Tribal Chiefs Ventures, we had the longest-standing MOU agreement with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (signed in 2008) to work on joint areas of concern with regard to environmental issues including water, air, land, and biodiversity. Among the many things accomplished under this MOU were jointly organized workshops, work plans, and meetings where we established working relationships with representatives from the Government of Alberta. In the spring of 2015 we established a working group of Land Managers/Consultation Coordinators within the four YTC member nations to discuss

areas of joint concern. We accumulate and curate information on the environment to share with the YTC member nations, including information on jurisprudence affecting environmental matters. We present this information to Chiefs and Councils in Area Council meetings, YTC Symposium, and in the Chiefs and Council orientations. ASETS has also worked to maximize its effectiveness through relationships with a wide variety of agencies and organizations, becoming a Service Canada agreement holder in 2005 and creating formal partnerships with Tribal Chiefs Employment and Training Services Association, Oteenow Employment and Training Society, Alberta Indigenous Relations, and six independent First Nations, among others. This has allowed us to take a prominent role in events such as the 2015 Treaty 6 Employment Partnerships and Job Fair, which we co-hosted. Our organization will continue to evolve and the work we do today will continue to leave footprints for tomorrow.





Chief Kurt Burnstick

On behalf of the Alexander First Nation and its membership; I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This newsletter represents an important first step for ongoing communications with the nations from the Yellowhead Tribal Council. As the Chiefs of YTC, we will continue to work together for the protection and enhancement of Treaty #6 and be strategic in collaborating on various issues. I would also like to congratulate our students from the College for their educational achievements. As Chiefs, we always support our people who seek to better themselves through education and we are very proud of you. As well I would like to thank the YTC staff for their hard work and we hope that 2020 is an even better year for our people. Again thank you for reading the YTC Connection and this will be one issue of many to come.



Chief Tony Alexis

Greetings to all on behalf of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation. As the Chiefs from each of our respective Nations we work together as the Yellowhead Tribal Council to address many issues that impact, concerns and opportunities for our members. Collectively, we form strategic alliances to ensure that we are tactical when conveying our messages to both Federal and Provincial Governments. We continue to work for our future generations and the staff of YTC work hard in providing information that is both current and useful. Congratulations to all of our graduates and you are both an inspiration and role models to your loved ones. I would like to wish each and everyone of you a safe, happy and joyous holiday season with your families and loved ones; as well as a safe and prosperous New Year. See you all in 2020 and lets continue on our path together.



Chief Douglas Beaverbones

From the Leadership and Membership of the O'Chiese First Nation; we wish our brothers and sisters from the YTC Nations a very Happy and Joyous Holiday Season. As the Chiefs of YTC, we strive for unity when overcoming significant issues that will affect our future generations. We would also like to congratulate our recent graduates and urge the continuing students to push forward and realize your educational dreams. This will be a cornerstone for our people in the future and we have become leaders in Post Secondary Education across Canada. As the First People's of this land, our knowledge will always ensure we assert a position of strength. This newsletter will be an important tool to ensure that our members are brought information on the various operations of Yellowhead Tribal Council and the programs and services it provides to our members.



Chief Jonathan Frencheater

We wish you all the very best Holiday season and Happy New Year with your loved ones from all of us from the Sunchild First Nation. Welcome to the first issue of the YTC Connection, an important tool for keeping our membership from each nation up to -date on the activities and direction of the Yellowhead Tribal Council. As well, I would like to congratulate our recent graduates and we wish you the very best in your bright futures. Our role as Chiefs, is to ensure that we protect and enhance our rights collectively for those unborn. We do this with the hard work and support from the YTC staff and we now have the platform in which to communicate our progress to our respective membership. Our collective efforts combined with our many years of experience enables us to create the best possible outcomes when working on protecting our lands, rights and our people. Our direction today will create ripples in the future that our children will continue on.



YTC Corrections

The Chiefs of Yellowhead Tribal Council (YTC) signed a Master Agreement with the Alberta Solicitor General on August 1, 1991. The purpose is to deliver Correctional Services programs, including Probation and Court Worker services to its member First Nations. Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society (YTCCS) Probation Officers provide all Community Corrections Supervision for both Adult and Youth Offenders which includes:

- Probation
- Pre-Trial release
- Conditional Sentences
- Pre-Sentence Reports
- Justice Panel/Committee Coordination
- Justice Committee meetings
- Court/Client referral

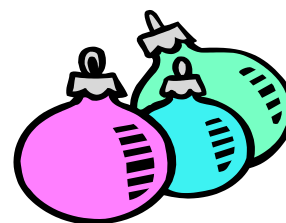
- Recommendation of AMP/ EXJS agreements for Court

Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society (YTCCS): Court workers provide services to ensure YTC members:

- Understand their rights and obligations within the justice system
- Assist clients to obtain legal assistance
- Lawyers referral
- Counselling
- Speak on behalf of clients in Court if unsure of judicial process
- Fine Option
- Alternative Measures Program
- AMP – Adult
- Extrajudicial Sanctions Program

EXJS - Youth

Courts settings in YTCCS Jurisdiction are Alexis, Morinville, Stony Plain, and Rocky Mountain House. YTCCS assists First Nation members of Alexis, Alexander, Sunchild, and O'Chiese.



Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training Strategy

The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) is a Government of Canada program designed to help improve the employment opportunities of Aboriginal peoples and enable them to fully participate in the Canadian economy in a relationship based on the mutual trust, respect and openness. The staff at YTC ASETS are always available to serve the Nations members and provide assistance when required. It is demand-driven and results based, rather than client-driven; this approach, enables the staff to ensure accurate information and statistics are kept in how many members are helped and from which nation. Additionally, these statistics provide



insightful information when determining trending and strategic partnership alignment. The ASETS programs are designed to deliver employment/training supports to the ready, willing and able workforce community within the YTC First Nations, enabling them to fully participate in the Canadian Economy. YTDF-ASETS Central administration office provides support and monitors the progress and

creates tools to enhance services at each respective First Nation sub-agreement level. Of course, as with any program of this nature your feedback is important to ensure that the program is effective and efficient. Within the four member nations being Alexander, Alexis, Sunchild and O'Chiese surveys are conducted periodically and the information collected in the surveys is reviewed by the central administration office with assistance from the four member Nations. These doors for opportunities are available to you and the staff of YTDF Pro- are in the the ASETS program place



YELLOWHEAD TRIBAL COLLEGE

The Yellowhead Tribal College officially opened its doors in 1987 after the creation of the Yellowhead Tribal Council in 1977. The original college has grown significantly since then. After more than 20 years in our previous location, we relocated to the Orange Hub, in Edmonton's Jasper Place neighbourhood. We are the anchor tenant and occupy a third of the leasable space. The building offers room to grow; increased access to transit and access for people with disabilities; and opportunities for partnerships with the other tenants (arts, social services, and other non-profit groups). In our new space, we are creating a science lab; carving out new spaces for studying and group work; hosting events; and extending the use of our classrooms and meeting spaces to external organizations. We have 11 classrooms, 2 computer labs, a Ceremonial Room, a greatly enlarged library, and offices for all staff, including most of our instructors. We occupy 31 per cent of the building and pay the

non-profit rate of \$15.62/square foot. YTC is in the second year of a 3.5-year, \$2.3-million grant from Service Canada to run Essential Skills in a Digital World, which turns out program graduates ready to enter the workforce. We are in the second year of a 2-year, \$1.06-million grant from Indigenous Services Canada to develop and deliver three innovative programs in the high-demand fields of renewable energy, healthcare, and Indigenous languages. In addition to the \$640,000 First Nations College Grant, which we receive annually from the Government of Alberta, Alberta Advance Education granted the college a further one time grant of \$500,000 at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year to assist with our move and other new initiatives. We are receiving a \$644,000 grant over 2 years from Alberta Education to develop and deliver an innovative program in Indigenous language teacher training. 40 funded UCEPP seats were restored by Alberta Works to begin in the 2019-20 academic year, representing approximately \$200,000 in tuition revenue per year. Two grants from

the Edmonton Community Foundation are funding new equipment and flooring for our science lab and the acquisition of 3D printers, enabling enhanced science instruction and programming in cutting-edge technologies. Our staff has expanded in the last 6 months, complementing the staff expansion that took place the previous year, with the creation of permanent faculty positions and the position of Associate Registrar and External Liaison. Doreen Daychief now serves as Coordinator of Indigenous Languages, and will oversee major growth in our language course and program offerings. Brenda Lemay serves as Admissions Officer, a position created to handle the increased volume of inquiries and applications. Jocelyn Verreault moved from a faculty role to the newly created position of Science and Technology Department Head. We are very excited for all the new programs and opportunities that exist for our students of the Yellowhead Tribal College.



YTC ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

On behalf of the Yellowhead Tribal Council Administration (YTC) / Yellowhead Tribal Development Foundation (YTDF), this update is prepared for your review as a member of the YTC Nations. Upon direction of the YTC First Nations', the Tribal Council strives to fulfill its Mandate: "To provide effective and efficient Nation-building advisory, programs and services" to the member First Nations – Alexander First Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, O'Chiese First Nation and Sunchild First Nation.

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

In the fall of 2018, we began the process with all YTC Entities to review, update and implement Five Year Strategic Plans for 2018-2023. This is a requirement for negotiating YTDF's Five-Year Funding Agreement with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Development (DIAND). Strategic Plans were completed by: YTC Executive of Chiefs; YTC Administration – includes Finance, Executive Management Advisory and Support, Technical Services, Post-Secondary Student Support Program, First Nations Student Success Program, Environment, Economic Development; YTC College; YTC Health, YTDF Aboriginal

Skills and Employment Training Strategy; Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Program. The Strategic and Operational Plans were approved by the YTC Executive of Chiefs on February 27, 2019.

FUNDING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:

- ▣ YTDF / YTC's Multi-Year Funding Agreement expired March 31, 2019.
 - o YTDF / YTC began negotiations for the renewal of our funding agreement.
 - o DIAND requires an entity to complete and pass a "General Assessment (GA) Part A" for YTDF; the GA resulted in a rating of 3.25 and is considered a "low risk."
 - o We have successfully renewed our Five-Year Comprehensive Funding (Block) Agreement for April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2024 beginning with a 2.168% increase (the highest increase we have received since 2011).
- ▣ YTDF / YTC'S Health Agreement with First Nations, Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Funding Agreement expired March 31, 2018.
 - o A new five-year Amending Funding Agreement was signed with FNIHB for the period of 2018-2022 (this includes the

2017-2018 fiscal year).

▣ YTDF is currently reviewing and meeting regarding the 10-year Indigenous Skills, Employment and Training Program (ISETP) Funding Agreement, formerly known as ASETS. Our current ASET Agreement has expired March 31, 2019. Negotiations will continue.

▣ Monthly meetings are held with YTC Program Managers to review Monthly Financial Statements and Annual Budgets to ensure they are in alignment with funding requirements. We will continue to bring you updates on these and various other programs for YTC Administration in later issues of the **YTC Connection** as it occurs. Communication to our members has begun and we will continue to keep members informed on our progress.



YTC ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The YTC Environment Program is led by Carolyn Buffalo. Educated as a lawyer, Carolyn is a former Chief from Samson Cree First Nation with extensive political experience in regards to governmental policy analysis. Key program priorities are inclusive of but not limited to: dialogue with the Member First Nations in regards to climate change presentations and the development of climate change strategy; to continue to dialogue with Alberta with

regard to the intern; continue monitoring Bills C-68 and Bill C-69; and to prepare submissions to the Senate standing committee on the Environment. Finally, to continue communications with the Treaty 6 Environment Coordinator (Crystal Lameman) and to reach out to the Consultation Coordinators/Land Managers of the YTC Member First Nations. More details will follow in future issues of the **YTC Connection**.



594194 Alberta Ltd. Property Management Update

Merv Kootenay is the Property Manager for the above listed company and has many extensive years of education and experience in fulfilling the required duties. This brief activity report does not include regular management duties such as, but not limited to: invoicing and collection of rents; making company deposits; scheduling repairs and maintenance; the processing and payment of company bills; the ordering of supplies and materials; addressing tenant issues and concerns. This update reflects only activities and business matters deemed important for this report which the shareholders should be informed about. I have attended numerous

building renovations planning meetings led by Manasc Isaac Architects (July, 2018 for the new College location). Assisted in the college move and the coordination of moving 3rd floor tenants to main floor space, renovations are now completed. Negotiated and signed two-year lease agreement with Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation for office space on 3rd floor (Effective September, 2018). Signed short term lease agreement with ISETs Main Floor (Oct 1, 2018 – Mar 31, 2019). Worked with ISETs in the implementation of the solar panel training / retrofit project. Assisted YTC Engineer with the installation of energy efficient electrical upgrades; boiler replacement project; and completing the roof top

unit replacement project. We now utilize a new auditing firm (Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP) hired to conduct company's 2018 year end financial report. We have installed a new fire system panel. Assisted in the installation of the new YTC logo neon sign. We are presently working with YTC legal counsel in the drafting of lease agreements for all YTC entities (to be effective May 1st, 2019). Assisted in mortgage loan application (provided financial and other relevant legal information). Signed a one year lease agreement with Oteenow Employment & Training for one classroom on main floor (Effective March, 2019). We will provide continuous updates in future issues of the newsletter.

Post Secondary Student Supports Program (PSSSP)

The Post-Secondary Student Support Program provides grant funding and student support services for the Yellowhead Tribal Council member First Nations students attending Post-Secondary Education. As of April 1, 2017 The Post-Secondary Student Support Program moved from YTC College to YTC Admin as directed by the Executive of Chiefs. Post-Secondary Student Support Program has a full time staff of two people; a Manager (Dawn Arcand) and a Data Entry File clerk (Tiffany Arcand). Please

feel free to contact either staff member for any questions pertaining to Post Secondary and they will gladly assist you with any inquiries. There are four appointed part-time positions for Liaison staff; with staff from and serving the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, O'Chiese First Nation, Sunchild First Nation and Alexander First Nation students. In the next issue; we will showcase some of our statistics from the four nations and highlight our key accomplishments. Congratulations to all the 2019 graduates and we hope there are more to come.





The above picture shows the Nov 13th & 14th meeting YTC hosted at the Royal Hotel West in Edmonton AB. Information was presented around the future of Post Secondary Education and strategy to be implemented by YTC. Agenda items included: **1. National Post-Secondary Education Review 2. Policy Proposal on First Nations Post-Secondary Education 3. Current Activities on Post Secondary Education 4. Budget 2019 Post-Secondary Education Investment Update 5. Recommendations Strategy Session.**



The winter session of the AOTC was held Nov 18th - 20th in Edmonton AB. This meeting was hosted by the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations. The agenda was focused around various issues concerning: Health, Education, Child Welfare, Funding Agreements between our Nations and Canada. The meeting was attended by Chiefs, Proxies, Elders, Staff from YTC and staff from the various Alberta Nations. Meetings like this allow our Nations to strategize on issues from both the Federal and Provincial Governments; and allows our Governments to deploy strategy to ensure our rights are protected.



If Knowledge is not shared, then what good is it?

As the First People's of this land consider what has happened throughout history for you to be here. Our Treaties that were negotiated and entered into over 140 years ago, are a hallmark of one of the most significant, foundational events to occur in our history. What are you doing to further enhance and build upon the legacy put in place for us so long ago? Our people evolve and grow with the changing seasons and if you consider change in all its forms...we are constantly changing, evolving and growing. Our Chiefs and Headmen that

entered into Treaty did so with the understanding that it was a sacred covenant between our Nations and the Crown. "For as long as the sun shines, grass grows and the rivers flow" is an excerpt we all know from Treaty #6. Remember, there is an important oral testimony that is fundamental when understanding the True Meaning, Spirit and Intent of Treaty. You have an obligation to continue to learn, to grow, to change, to evolve. Our ancestors who sacrificed so much for us to be here are owed a huge debt by us today. This debt can be paid by learning, growing,

changing, evolving and **teaching** our young people. If you possess the gift of knowledge, culture or language...you are obliged to pass these gifts on to the young people that surround you. It only takes one to teach and one to learn. What are you doing?



A Positive Step Forward for Sunchild & O'Chiese



The Sunchild First Nation and O'Chiese First Nation have taken an important first step together. On Wednesday, November 20th, 2019; they both signed Residency & Trespass bylaws that enables the Chief & Council to evict known drug dealers from their lands. We have all had the experience with losing a loved one from illegal drugs and this is a prime example of two Nations standing up for their people and protecting those on the land. As well it sends a

very clear message to everyone that enough is enough and these are two governments who put their Nations future ahead of themselves. Of course, as with any other Nation passing Laws or By Laws both Nations consulted with their respective membership through a series of consultation meetings; and received overwhelming membership support. Penalties and appeals for the bylaws will be reviewed and decided upon by a panel of seven people who will work with the RCMP.

This action taken by the Sunchild and O'Chiese First Nations is also an example of hope, in that it tells the youth or people with no other choices that there are choices and people are looking out for you. Leadership in this case, is standing up for the people who cannot stand up for themselves. It represents a positive first step forward and congratulations to both Nations for taking the necessary steps to ensure their members are safe.

Alexander Gas Bar Grand Opening



The Alexander Gas Bar - A Division of the Alexander Business Center Inc. held its grand opening on Monday, December 9th, 2019 in the Alexander First Nation. The opening was attended by many members, guests and the Alexander First Nation leadership. The gas bar now features a deli, 6 new pumps with a canopy; as well as a complete renovation equipped with paved parking and solar panels on the roof. The new gas bar creates 16 new full time jobs for the Alexander First Nation. Congratulations to the Alexander First Nation and the Alexander Business Center on this historic venture!



YTC Fire & Safety Department

Frank McVeety is the YTC Fire Inspector /Advisor with many years of education and experience. Direct involvement with the First Nations includes fire/safety planning, conducting and implementing training in structural firefighting and wildland firefighting for First nations fire departments. We also provide training in the use, operation, restoration and maintenance of fire trucks, equipment and bunker gear cleaning, systems and facilities including the fire protection resources of First Nation communities. We also assist with planning and completing fire inspections in schools, business buildings and homes in the communities; assist in organizing, implementing and conduct fire prevention programs. Prepare reports and recommendations for the correction of possible hazardous conditions. Being a Fire/ Safety Advisor, does require a lot of traveling and outdoor activity, demonstrating and training others in

firefighting techniques and practices; while also generating reports on fires and incidents along with inspection checklists. Current activities include: Public building fire & safety inspections on all four First Nation communities. Setting up contractors for recertification of all fire extinguishers for each community upon expiration, this will only be for business buildings schools. With all homes we are working on securing funding from governments to buy smoke/ carbon dioxide detectors and 2lb fire extinguishers. Please keep in mind the following:

- ◆ We offer visitations from local fire dept members and Sparky the fire dog when available.
- ◆ We're happy to assist elders with their fires when used in their ceremonies when asked.
- ◆ We wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and fire safety reminder to all the membership of the First Nations.

YTC Housing Report

Kathleen Griffin heads this department and as part of the ongoing Strategic Planning there is ongoing quarterly reports to the Chiefs & Executive of the Yellowhead Tribal Council. Information links are composed of meetings to coordinate set up of a Master Housing database. We also focus on hiring summer students so inspections can be completed for all nations. For the Climate change Initiative there are training opportunities available to become an energy auditor through the ASETS program -Housing & Infrastructure: The YTC Chiefs committee on Housing and Infrastructure has a working group. Urban Housing: \$120 Million over 4 years delivered through the province of Alberta. The second stream of funding is \$40 Billion over 10 years and would be delivered

federally through the various regions. Arnold Jerry has submitted a proposal and we are currently waiting for a response as to allocation of any funding. Areas of focus are on student housing, affordable housing and off-reserve housing grants. Discussions also included a down payment assistance program for off-reserve housing. With the AOSA renovation we assisted with project management of the renovation to better streamline invoices, work change orders, attended bidding and award meetings etc. There are other items that we will include in future issues of the YTC Connection. Have a great holiday season.



Project Maintenance & Management

The Maintenance Management Advisor provides advice, assistance and service for the First Nations of O'Chiese First Nation, Sunchild First Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation and Alexander First Nation for new and/or proposed projects as well for the existing public and residential assets. This department is headed by Ercan Bozkurt and highlights include: Retrofit project: funding has been received of \$1 million and this project is completed with replacement of YTC Admin rooftop units,

BMS system installation, boilers system replacement and LED lights installation. The Energy Audit project has been completed and the funding received was \$24,161.50. Solar panel installation project funding also has been received for \$124,609.89 and the installation has been completed. Additional information to follow in future newsletters.

YTC Health Initiatives

The YTC Health Program employs staff with funding from FNIHB. The funding is channeled through an agreement signed between the Yellowhead Tribal Development Foundation (YTDF) Board of Directors and the YTC Executive of Chiefs. The Health Director/Co-Management Liaison is under the general direction of the YTC CEO with a Health Steering Committee that advises on the program. Each YTC member First Nation Health Director serves as a member of the YTC Health Steering Committee. Current programs and services include: Rehabilitation Services, Registered Dietitian, and Health Director/Co-Management Liaison. Registered Dietitians are health professionals with special training. They help people make food choices that promote health and wellness. The main goal of YTC's nutrition program is to help prevent and treat diseases like diabetes, heart disease, cancers, and kidney disease. Rehabilitation services are provided by licensed physical and/or occupational therapists upon assessment of a variety of physical injuries or illnesses. Based on individual community needs assessments, the following services are available at YTC First Nations: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Massage Therapy, Nurse Practitioner, and RMH Primary Care Network Chronic Care. The last two services have been implemented for O'Chiese and Sunchild First Nations as a result of collaborative effort

between RMH PCN, FNs Health Managers, and FNIHB. The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (IRS RHSP) provides mental health and emotional support services to eligible former Indian Residential School students and their families throughout all phases of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement. As well the IRS support workers have been very helpful in helping First Nation members with the various paperwork required in filing for Day school Claims. Please contact your worker for further information. Resolution Health Support Program Services are safe, confidential, respectful, and non-judgmental. The Resolution Health Support Worker position was developed for the Indian Residential School Survivors. In Alberta there are 43 Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSW) and 28 full time Cultural Support providers within 26 organizations. We also provide leadership to the YTC Member Nations through the Mental Health and Wellness Pilot Project and assistance with the specific MHW programming elements, enhancement of partnership relations, building of the MHW team/human resources and administration, capturing the results of the project through data collection and evaluation, increasing access to services for community members, increasing communication, collaboration and sharing in community engagement. We are also assisting the member nations in developing their Mental Health and

Wellness programs and ensuring the programs are individually suited to the needs of the nations. Through gathering information directly from the member Nations we were able to ensure various experts are available for our members.

These include: Psychologists – to enhance the skills and services of the Mental Health frontline workers and provide additional training and support for the community NNADAP teams;

Psychiatric Nurse – resident expert on medications and interactions with other medications, involvement with community prevention programming; assisting with improving access to services, increasing collaboration and communication with all; to assist through prevention, promotion information sessions possible ways to help remove the stigma surrounding mental health issues; Clinical Social Workers – working directly with the on reserve teams, such as NNADAP workers, to support and assist with improving access to services; and to collaborate and enhance on reserve prevention and promote information sessions within the Nations.



**Merry Christmas and
a Happy NEW YEAR!**



First Nations Students Support Program

The First Nations Students Support Program has seen significant growth in the services it provides to our First Nations students from the four Nations. Led by Dr. Tracey Poitras-Collins, this innovative program has expanded its operations. In addition to the literacy, numeracy and student retention components of this program we also provide guidance in preparing, updating and reporting on school plans. Each school should have a school plan which outlines their goals of the school for the next 3 or 5 years that is developed with the help of community and other stakeholders. This is a living document that guides school improvement and provides direction with results to support each schools' goals for improvement and awareness of current trends in provincial education. Being sovereign schools, we understand that our students need to excel in both our school systems and with the euro-centric education system. As of September 1, 2019, all provincial school principals will require a leadership certificate in addition to their teaching certificate. However, as First Nation schools, we are not required to have these certificates but we should be aware of the quality standards required for these certificates. We also provide teaching evaluation services to recommend whether or not a teacher receives their teaching certificate. Our decisions for program implementation are evidence based; that is, we ensure the programs are implemented and have established success records because we want the best for all children and youth in the YTC nations. We will be further exploring the 5 Pillars of the Reading Program, Math Catchers Program, Mathology, and culture infusion as core curriculum. We will be taking our high school leadership team for further skill development. We are innovators and we are proud to serve the young students from the respective Nations.



FNSSP Services Provided to our Nations

- ⇒ YOUTH CONFERENCES
- ⇒ LAND BASED LEARNING
- ⇒ TEACHING TREATIES
- ⇒ SPEAK OUT EVENTS
- ⇒ STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAMS
- ⇒ TECHNICAL SUPPORT
- ⇒ DIGITAL LEARNING
- ⇒ LITERACY
- ⇒ NUMERACY
- ⇒ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS
- ⇒ EDUCATION PLANNING
- ⇒ ASSESSMENT TO INFORM INSTRUCTION
- ⇒ DATA MANAGEMENT
- ⇒ REGULAR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR MEETINGS
- ⇒ ANNUAL RESULTS REPORTS
- ⇒ BUILDING STAFF CAPACITY
- ⇒ SUPPORTING REGULAR ELDERS/ KNOWLEDGE KEEPER INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOLS
- ⇒ REINFORCING OUR CULTURE & LANGUAGE

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

VISION STATEMENT

Yellowhead Tribal Council students will excel in mainstream education while reconnecting and retaining their respective language and culture.

VALUE STATEMENT:

Staff and students will behave in a professional, responsible manner while contributing to the success of improving literacy, numeracy and student retention.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Yellowhead Tribal Council exists to complement and support each respective school to increase literacy, numeracy and student retention while valuing each community.





A Pictorial Representation of Sovereignty



Take a look at the picture above, the Chiefs of the Yellowhead Tribal Council together are strong collectively. As individual Nations however; they work to protect and enhance Treaty #6 as per their own Nations direction and determination. Our Chiefs & Headmen/Head women are oftentimes our voices for those who cannot speak. Our Elders serve as guides to our

leaders as this has often been the way in which Nations determine their collective direction for many generations. We must be proud in who we are as the Original People of this land and remember that there are young people coming behind us. Often we are told that we are only borrowing the land we live on and we need to leave it in a sustainable state for the future generations. The

picture above is a representation of all things sovereign, as we determine our leadership through our own customs handed down to us by past generations. Remember that our Rights are portable and they continue to evolve and this is because of many struggles overcome from past and current Leaders. One must remember that our foot-steps today leave imprints for tomorrow's generation.



Mike Hartley: Retiring after many Years of Service

After 14 years of dedicated service to the Yellowhead Tribal Council, Mike Hartley is retiring from the Finance career he started so long ago. "I've served YTC for 14 years" Mike stated. On behalf of the Executive of Chiefs, the YTC Administration Staff and the staff from all the YTC entities; we wish you the very best Mike and we thank you very much for your many years of hard work and dedication. A very heartfelt and warm extension of gratitude to you and your family and we hope that you enjoy retirement Mike and feel free to stop by and visit us any-time.



<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>JOB TITLE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>EXTENSION</u>
Administration	Laverne Arcand	Chief Executive Officer	laverne.arcand@ytcadmin.ca	316
Administration	Carollyne Robertson	Executive Assistant	carollyne.robertson@ytcadmin.ca	315
Administration	Mike Hartley	Financial Advisor	mike.hartley@ytcadmin.ca	314
Administration	Carolyn Buffalo	Environment	carolyn.buffalo@ytcadmin.ca	311
Administration	Joy Sandy	HR Officer	joy.sandy@ytcadmin.ca	310
Administration	Candice Willier	Policy Analyst/Researcher	candice.willier@ytcadmin.ca	309
Administration	Nadine Cardinal	Op Support/Reception	nadine.cardinal@ytcadmin.ca	304
Administration	Marek Tyler		marekwtyler@ytced.ca	304
Administration	Kevin Fineday	Computer Technician	kevin.fineday@ytcadmin.ca	304
Finance	Dionne Cardinal	Financial Controller	dionne.cardinal@ytcadmin.ca	313
Finance	Josephine Cardinal	Payroll/Accts Payable	josephine.cardinal@ytcadmin.ca	312
Tech	Ercan Bozkurt	Project MM Advisor	ercan.bozkurt@ytcadmin.ca	334
Tech	Frank McVeety	Fire/Safety Advisor	frank.mcveety@ytcadmin.ca	326
Tech	Kathleen Griffin	Housing Inspector	kathleen.griffin@ytcadmin.ca	331
ASETS	Yvette Alexis	Coordinator	Yvette.alexis@ytcadmin.ca	343
ASETS	Farrah Bourque	ASETS Assistant	farrah.bourque@ytcadmin.ca	344
ASETS	Rodney Mustus	ASETS Finance	rodney.mustus@ytcadmin.ca	342
ASETS	Tina Reid	YTDF Childcare Coordinator	tina.reid@ytcadmin.ca	358
CFS	Derek Chewka	Director - CFS	derek.chewka@ytcadmin.ca	319
CFS	Jacqueline Letendre	Project Assistant	jacqueline.letendre@ytcadmin.ca	320
CFS	Bertha Anderson-Laboucan	CFS Researcher	bertha.anderson-laboucan@ytced.ca	321
FNSSP	Tracey Poitras-Collins	Manager	tracey.poitrascollins@ytced.ca	351
FNSSP	Ryan Blesse	Information Technologist	ryan.blesse@ytced.ca	346
FNSSP	Sharise Roteski	Native Education	sharise.oteski@ytcadmin.ca	347
FNSSP	Tyson Frencheater		tyson.frencheater@ytced.ca	348
FNSSP	Kim Whitehorse	Admin Support	kimberly.whitehorse@ytced.ca	349
HEALTH	Anne Bird	Health Liaison	anne.bird@ytcadmin.ca	354
HEALTH	Rhonda Waskahat	Health Support/Planner	rhonda.waskahat@ytcadmin.ca	355
HEALTH	Jerome Yellowdirt	Opioid Project Coordinator	jyellowdirt01@gmail.com	355
HEALTH	Beverly Swampy	Rehab Services Coordinator	beverly.swampy@ytcadmin.ca	356
HEALTH	Lauren Renlund	Dietician	lauren.redlund@ytcadmin.ca	357
HEALTH	Beverly Jackson		beverly.jackson@ytced.ca	353
IRS	Gordon Burnstick	Alexander	grdnburnstick@yahoo.ca	780.217.0061
IRS	Howard Mustus Jr.	Alexis	howardmustusjr@hotmail.com	780.920.4187
IRS	Theresa Frencheater	Sunchild/O'Chiese	theresafresh@yahoo.ca	780.445.4373
Natamoowin	Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse	Executive Director	Jodi@natamoowin.ca	345
PSSSP	Dawn Arcand	PSSSP Manager	dawn.arcand@ytcadmin.ca	307
PSSSP	Tiffany Arcand	Data Entry Clerk	tiffany.arcand@ytcadmin.ca	308



Profile Story: Honoring the Knowledge Keepers



SUNCHILD FIRST NATION



For the students at the Yellowhead Tribal College there is a an opportunity to sit with various Elders from the four member Nations. Elder Gerry Redbear is one of the Elders who provides advice and guidance to students who need it all throughout the year. A humble and wise man, Gerry is the type of Elder who listens first and then provides advice based on his own experiences from his life. A very insightful man; Gerry values his family, culture and language as important values in living his life in a good way. “In life, you can learn so much more by just listening to people. Telling stories and sharing experiences is a

way our people learn from one another.” Gerry is a proud member of the Sunchild First Nation and has been an active supporter of various schools for many years; including the College. Among providing advice to students, Gerry is also active in Treaty Protection for future generations. “I would like the opportunity to talk to some of the Alberta and Canadian leaders; they need to be reminded of the sacred promises that were made between our Nations.” As First Nations people we have always learned from our Elders. Knowledge Keepers like Gerry are always willing to share stories and their knowledge but what you do with it is entirely up to you.

ON THAT DAY

On that day, children are taken from their home

On that day, the strength of a Nation is tested and shown

On that day, families are torn apart

On that day, pain is felt deep within our hearts

On that day, children endure hardships and pain

On that day, tears fall down like rain

On that day, the last school ends

On that day, broken hearts and spirits are on the mend

On that day, the road to healing begins

On that day, the strength of a Nation wins

To walk the Red Road, we have begun our way



Congratulations 2019 Graduates!



YTC ELDERS



A FEW OF THE College Staff



Wishing You Continued Success in the Future





UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE YTC NATIONS

December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 AFN Gas Bar Grand Opening	10 O'Chiese Christmas Community	11	12 O'Chiese First Nation Staff Dinner	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Alexander FN xmas celebration	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day 	26 Boxing Day	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	YTC STAFF HOLIDAYS DECEMBER 19th - JANUARY 6th 2020		

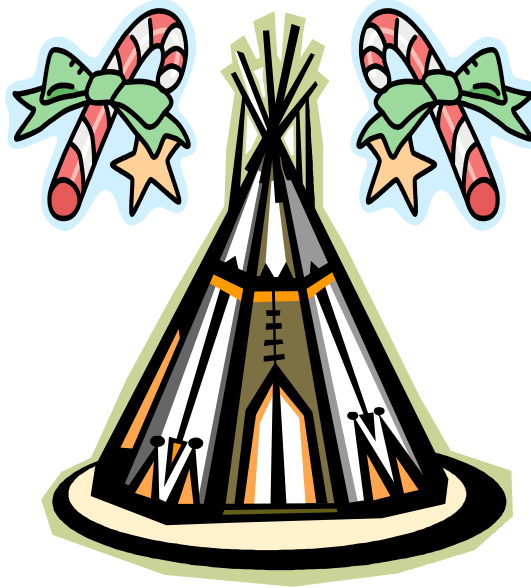




Main Address - Box 3420
Morinville AB, T8R1S3

Edmonton Office
17304 - 105 Avenue
Edmonton AB

Phone: 587.524.0180
Fax: 587.524.0181



Originally introduced by the Spanish in the 14th Century, horses have changed the way First Nations people traveled, fought wars, hunted and gathered. As you can see above, our ancestors before us didn't need saddles.

The Start of Ongoing Communications

That concludes the very first edition of the **YTC Connection** and we thank you for your time in reading through this tool of communication for your benefit. This newsletter represents important, critical steps in achieving goals of communication for the Yellowhead Tribal Council. One, it creates a platform for YTC to communicate various programs, projects and updates to you, the reader. Second, it is also a platform for informing the people of the political directives of our Nations at various times. The staff and Leadership of the Yellowhead Tribal Council work

diligently to ensure that the best possible outcome is achieved in any meeting regarding various situations that arise. This newsletter will continue to serve as the means in which you will be informed as to what that means to our people now and in the future, all the while keeping you informed of the ongoing operations of the Yellowhead Tribal Council. We you a wonderful holiday season with family and friends and to watch for future and upcoming issues of the **YTC Connection**.



Collective Collaboration Today for Tomorrow

