



Thlut Cho

The Big Smoke

CHIEF FRENCH NOMINATED FOR PRINCE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD

The Business Excellence Awards is an annual event hosted by the Prince George Chamber of Commerce to celebrate excellence in ten traditional award categories. Chief John French was nominated for Business Person of the Year, he and Council attended the nomination lunch on September 13 where the nominees were announced. The Business Excellence Awards takes place in October as part of the Small Business Month.

Thlut Cho : The Big Smoke

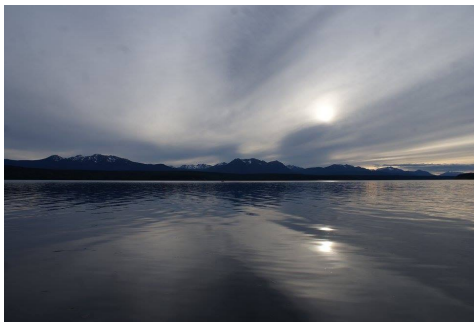
Leadership wants to make sure Takla Nation members are kept up to date on news and information. Sheanna Williams is now the Communications Officer for the Nation, and Robert Abraham is our community-based photographer. We will be producing Thlut Cho every few weeks. Watch for our new website design and keep an eye on Facebook too!

A Wild Wildfire Season

While Takla Landing was never in immediate danger, the past six weeks have provided plenty of alerts and even evacuations for our people, and in our Territory. We appreciate the Prince George and Takla teams that coordinated all of the plans and information with Emergency Services BC, the RCMP and multiple other services: Denine Gosselin, Sheanna Williams, Ernie French-Downey, Bessie French-Downey, Frank Alec, Brandy Jarvis, Richard Abraham, Levi Davis, Ann Abraham, Keith West, and a big thank you to the Takla RCMP team.

Prior to the wildfires, Leadership had directed an update of the 2012 Takla Landing Emergency Response Manual. Denine and Wilma began this work, and with the support of the First Nations Emergency Support Services team who spent the first week in August at Takla – PG Office (they were supposed to be in Takla, but the road was closed!) Denine completed the full manual by the end of August.

Leadership also determined that, while we're building towards our volunteer fire department in Takla, we require some up-to-date firefighting equipment. We invested approximately \$100,000 for equipment and a trailer for Takla Landing, a smaller unit for the Buckley House area, and equipment for West Arm, Germansen Landing, Uslika, and Bear Lake. The distribution of equipment was made based on area populations, access to roads for ready transport of equipment to other areas in the Traditional Territory and ensuring more remote areas will have immediate resources available.



Chief and Council Priorities For September / December 2018

- Successful completion of the Band Office
- Successful completion of four new duplexes and assignment of housing
- Development of the Housing Committee
- Submitting all final reports for our capital projects this fall as required, and submitting our capital plans for the future, including paving of roads in the community
- Ensuring the Nation is in a solid financial position, that Chief and Council are receiving current and accurate financial information to make long-term decisions
- Continuing critical work on negotiations and stewardship control with BC, Canada and industry.

QUICK INFORMATION

- We will be hiring a Youth Coordinator for Takla, to carry on the good work done by Sabrina Williams before she returned to university herself.
- Nancy Parent is our Employment and Training Coordinator
- Empowerment Group with Frank Alec will be starting mid-October!
- Rosie Johnny Headstone Potlatch. September 15, 2018
- Temira Agla Headstone Potlatch. September 30, 2018

Back to School!

It's that time of year . . . back to the books for our children, youth and many of our adult members. In the spring Chief and Council decided to take a new approach to strengthen our educational delivery and opportunities. We amalgamated Education with Employment & Training to create a life-long education service for members. Mike Kanhai began work this summer as Director of Education, Employment & Training, with Sheena Teegee as Education Coordinator working primarily with high school students in Prince George, and with all our post-secondary students. Nus Wadeelzuhl School has a new principal, Flo Kanhai, and two new teachers: Liz Calder and Raymond Mba. Raymond will be joining the School in a couple of weeks we hope. Mabel Daley remains our language and culture teacher and our other School staff are continuing their critical service to our children. Willy is councilor responsible for all of Education, Employment, and Training.

We are fortunate to have Ananya Bhattacharya working with us for the next year as a Northern Trust intern: she is working closely with Education, Employment & Training on data gathering, analysis, and planning.

Great news! Takla has 23 students in post-secondary this year. Indigenous Services Canada provided their usual funding, and Chief and Council determined the Nation has the finances to assist all of our eligible students to attend college or university, so directed administration to provide the additional funding.

