



**Southern Dakelh
Nation Alliance**

An alliance representing the Ulkatcho First Nation, Lhtako Dené Nation, Nazko First Nation, and Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation in asserting inherent rights and title, supporting a vibrant economy, and sustaining a healthy natural environment.

Your SDNA Newsletter

December 2019

SDNA welcomes apportionment announcement

The Provincial government's new approach to forest management for the Quesnel Timber Supply Area was met with enthusiasm last month by the four Member Nations of the SDNA.

The decision will significantly increase the allowable annual cut (ACC) in timber volume for our First Nations, from 1% of an annual total to 13%, for a total ACC of 162,500 cubic metres of live timber.

"I really feel this is a true step forward toward building a government-to-government relationship," said Chief Alec Stuart of Nazko First Nation and President of the SDNA. The apportionment decision was made by Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, was announced in Quesnel by Ravi Kahlon, Parliamentary Secretary for FLNR.

"Today's announcement gives communities and Indigenous Nations in the area a greater voice in local forest sector management, so they can remain resilient when facing challenges like the ones we are experiencing now," said Kahlon. Under the new apportionment arrangement, the government categorizes, by licence type, the breakdown of available volume within the allowable annual cut (AAC) of the Quesnel TSA. In 2017, Chief Forester Diane Nicholls set the AAC in the Quesnel TSA at 2,607,000



Apportionment Announcement, Quesnel Forestry Innovation Centre
SDNA executive director Shawn Holte and Nazko Chief Stuart Alec (second and third from left). Chief Clifford Lebrun, Lhtako Dené Nation (third from right). Ravi Kahlon, parliamentary secretary for forests, lands, natural resource operations and rural development (fifth from left). Photo supplied.

cubic metres. The apportionment decision allocates 162,500 cubic metres of live timber to the First Nations in the Quesnel TSA (SDNA and ?Esdilagh).

"How we work together is going to be critical," said SDNA Executive Director Shawn Holte. "There's a lot of challenges everybody is facing right now and the pieces that are coming together on relationships and relationship-building is going to be key."

The apportionment decision demonstrates the collective efforts of First Nations, ministry staff, local and provincial governments, and industry, with goals of supporting

indigenous reconciliation, community involvement in local resource management, and forest sector diversification to enhance economic stability in the area.

The collaboration between the Province and the SDNA in the lead up to the decision was a critical step forward in their government-to-government relationship.

However, the SDNA continues to work towards an approach where statutory decisions are made jointly and in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The new apportionment takes effect Jan. 1, 2020.

SDNA marks eventful year with landmark deals, negotiations



Executive director Shawn Holte

It has been an eventful year for the Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance. We continue to represent the people of our four nations and work with all levels of government to advance toward a full recognition of our rights and title to our lands.

In June 2019 we signed a Pathways Agreement with the federal government to serve as a basis for negotiations and a nation-to-nation reconciliation agreement.

More recently, the SDNA was part of a landmark deal in the forestry industry, with an apportionment announcement by the provincial government significantly increasing the annual allowable cut for both the SDNA and Esdilahg First Nation. We have gone from 1% of the annual total to 13%, for a total AAC (annual allowable cut) of 162,5000 cubic metres of live timber. This change not only opens up economic opportunities for our members; it

also strengthens our claims to our traditional territories and the right to determine how the resources on those lands, and the lands themselves, will be utilized. This is a big win for our people and we hope to leverage this decision for even more progress in this area.

We also held a series of community meetings in the summer, to hear from our members and determine some of the goals and objectives we should set for ourselves in the future.

A number of excellent suggestions and observations were put forth during those meetings and we continue to incorporate those ideas into our work on behalf of SDNA members. We expect to continue to meet with our members in the four SDNA nations in 2020, so we look forward to hearing more from you in the coming year!

Economic opportunities and establishing rights and title are important aspects of the SDNA's mandate. But cultural and natural resources also need our attention. Thus, we are leading cultural and ecosystems and species focussed work that support the upholding of your Aboriginal rights.

As we continue to document our history, we build a foundation of knowledge that gives all

our members, and especially our youth, great reasons to take pride in our history, and the vital role it has played in the region, since time immemorial. With the year coming to a close, I especially want to thank all our members for their support in 2019.

The Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance belongs to you and it is here to represent your interests. We want to know what's important to you, so that the programs and initiatives we undertake will be in line with our members' wishes.

On behalf of the SDNA directors, executive and staff, I would like to wish one and all the best of the holiday season and extend my hopes for a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2020 to you and your family.

Seeking stories

The SDNA belongs to you and we would like to hear what's happening in your communities. For example:

- community events
- local achievements
- milestones/birthdays

Share your tips and win a prize. Email: communications1@dakeh.ca



Project preserves, builds history

More than 200 tapes, compiled by anthropologists and community members in Nazko and Ulkatcho more than 30 years ago, are being digitized and catalogued in Victoria. The work, which is

being done by ROAN Sound and will take four to six weeks, is part of a Listen. Hear Our Voices project. “It’s an important project to preserve and build history,” said SDNA research analyst Matthew

Zucca, who has been working on the project for the past month. The digitized tapes, which feature several different dialects, will be archived and returned to the two bands.



Behind the scenes: your SDNA staff

Many people work behind the scenes at the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance – from those in administration to those out in the field. This newsletter we feature **Diana Gerdenits** and **Matthew Zucca**.



Diana Gerdenits



Matthew Zucca

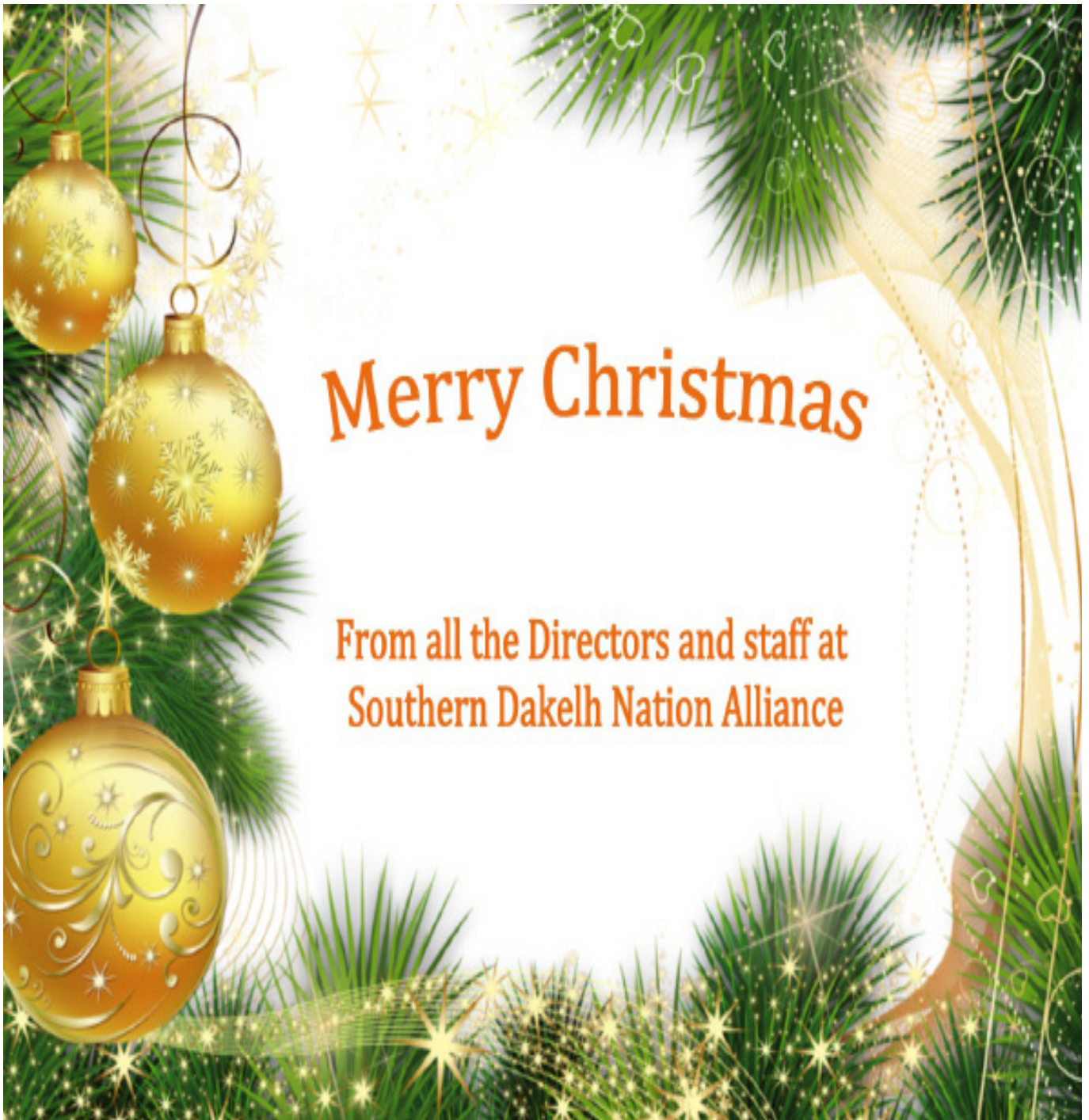
Diana Gerdenits is a professional forester working with, and on behalf of, the four First Nations, specializing in operational forestry, silviculture and ecology. She has more than 25 years of industry experience and really enjoys training people. Her highlights on the job include learning about our Four First Nations’ culture, history and values, and said it has been both inspiring and a bit emotional at times hearing the stories she’s passionate about, finding solutions and working together. When she’s not at work, Diana is creating all natural skin care

products, farming, fishing, jogging or spending time with her two amazing daughters. Diana has diploma in criminology and a BSc in Forestry from the University of Alberta, and is an ABCFP Registered Professional Forester and accredited silviculture surveyor.

Matthew Zucca is a Social Research Analyst, involved in getting information to support the SDNA’s member nations by engaging with stakeholders and other researchers, and through

archives, printed books and online sources. He analyses qualitative and quantitative data from various sources. His work involves listening to stories and reading one-of-a-kind documents. He loves hearing people’s stories because it makes him feel like he’s a part of the story, especially when he is in the presence of a great storyteller. As many archival materials are the only ones of their kind in existence, Matthew says reading them is like “listening to something important but quiet.” Outside work, Matthew scours recipe books and YouTube videos for new foods to try. He also has a few books on the go. He love sports and games of all kinds. Matthew has an M.A. in Anthropology and a B.Soc.Sci from the University of Ottawa.





SDNA holiday office hours

The SDNA's Williams Lake office will be closed for the Christmas holidays from December 23 to January 5, 2020. We will reopen on Monday, January 6.

We wish you all the best for a wonderful holiday. See you all in the New Year. Visit at 59 First Avenue South, Williams Lake, or call (250) 398-3375.

Story idea?

What's happening in your community? Share story tips and win a prize.
Email: communications1@dakeh.ca