



SDNA

Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance

Hubulhsooninats'Uhoot'Alh

Together we will fix it.



FALL/WINTER 2021



SDNA

Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance

Hubulhsooninats'Uhoot'Alh

FALL/WINTER 2021 ISSUE

Hubulhsooninats'Uhoot'Alh means together we will fix it.

These words inspire our work at SDNA and guide our mission to work in support of the three Southern Dakelh communities who have allied to protect their Keyoh and create a sustainable future for Southern Dakelh lands, communities, and culture.

Each community and every staff member brings a unique set of interests and skills and dedicates these to exercise rights and title, enhance health and wellness, stimulate economic development, manage natural resources, advance education and training, and sustain governance and organizational resiliency.

Our newsletter Hubulhsooninats'Uhoot'Alh shares stories of our work together and provides information for members of SDNA communities.

We hope you enjoy it.

We invite you to send your photos, stories, or questions to comm1@dakelh.ca

CONTENTS



16

**Survey of Government Professionals
Involved in Caribou Recovery for
Indigenous Knowledge Needs**

4

Executive Director's Report

5

Introducing:

Chris Cardamone and Cathy Frew

7

Into Your Hearts and Hands:

Digitizing Historical Video and Audio

8

Our Directors and Staff

9

Grease Trail Clearing Continues

10

SDNA:

Who We Are and What We Do

12

More than Matters:

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

14

**Emerging Economic Opportunities for First
Nations**

20

Communications Update:

Stepping Up With Stories

22

Staff Training

Emergency Response



Hubulhsooninats'Uhoot'Alh

FALL 2021 ISSUE

In 2020, our communities carried the loss of family at the hand of residential institutions, responded to wildfires, and faced the beginning of a global pandemic. In 2021, COVID-19 continues to affect our communities. It impacts our ability to gather and connect as Southern Dakelh—a separation that makes ongoing residential institution findings and pandemic conditions even more difficult.

We honour Southern Dakelh and all those we lost at the hand of Canadian residential institutions. We keep our distance for the health and safety of all-including survivors and their families.

We are thankful for all the work done on Southern Dakelh lands during the 2021 wildfire season and respect this work was done despite the impacts of residential school findings and the pandemic.

Our priority at SDNA is to respect the governance of Southern Dakelh communities, including community health protocols, and support the health and wellness of Southern Dakelh Peoples.

SDNA leaders and staff are working together to exercise title and rights, discuss respectful and sustainable economic development, increase funding to develop community capacity and services, and return lands to the communities.

Federal and provincial elections created a predictable stall in our work. However, we trust that our relationships over the past three years and our strong

leadership create a solid foundation to progress Southern Dakelh decision-making, success, and independence.

In October, Ulkatcho First Nation announced their withdrawal from Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance. We respect this decision and the many different paths Indigenous Peoples take to exercise rights and title and ensure sustained health for their People and Lands. We continue to foster good relationships with the Ulkatcho community and leadership and will work together and support each other when needed.

The staff at SDNA continue to work hard under the direction of the Chiefs to support the three remaining communities that feel a significant benefit and strength in working together. We are dedicated to strengthening our connection and finding new ways to communicate with the three communities. Your strength and knowledge are necessary for the future success of all Southern Dakelh communities and lands.

While we haven't been able to make our regular community visits to share information with our three communities, we have continued to keep SDNA issues and concerns at the center of ongoing discussions with all levels of government. This has been thanks to the strong leadership of our Directors—Chief Liliane Squinas (Lhooskuz Dené First Nation, Chief Clifford Lebrun (Lhtako Dené Nation), and Chief Leah Stump (Nazko First Nation.)

We look forward to gathering to share a meal, good news, strength, and support.



INTRODUCING

HUMAN RESOURCES

Chris Cardamone is a Human Resource Professional with experience across sectors, most notably in the Yukon territory working with seven First Nations as part of an economic development corporation, where he developed his passion for work with Indigenous organizations. Some of Chris' responsibilities with SDNA include recruitment and retention policy work, labour relations, and employee engagement.

Chris is from Niagara Falls, Ontario, and holds an undergraduate degree in Labour studies from Brock University and a postgraduate diploma in Human Resource Management from Niagara College. In his spare time Chris enjoys exploring the beauty BC has to offer while hiking trails and playing golf. He is always looking for an adventure.

CHRIS CARDAMONE



MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN

Cathy completed education and training in South Africa as a professional nurse and midwife, including general, psychiatric and community nursing; and later studied further in sociology and psychology, and a master's in psychology. Her dissertation was on adolescent suicide attempt.

Cathy's work experience includes nursing in general, renal, cardiac high care and medical intensive care units. After leaving bedside nursing, Cathy pursued academic coordinating and lecturing.

Passionate about mental health, Cathy provided counselling part-time since 2014 and comes with an attitude to learn and grow in how best to facilitate healing in individuals and communities, in a way that demonstrates respect for their choices, culture, traditions, and the worth of every person.

Cathy relocated from South Africa to Canada in July 2021. Cathy has family in South Africa, including two grown sons and two daughters-in-law, as well as siblings and extended family in Canada. She enjoys walking in nature (sans bears), watercolor and acrylic painting, and baking South African rusks or 'beskuit' - a baked and dried biscuit-like bread to dunk in tea or coffee. With ingredients so different in Canada, it has proved challenging to adjust her recipe to work here! Cathy had some success with her rusks over the long weekend! Meanwhile store-bought chocolate chip cookies and lemon biscotti filled the gap very well!

CATHY FREW



COVID SAFETY



SDNA

Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance

For the health and safety of SDNA communities and staff, we maintain health protocols in accordance with community protocol and provincial standards .

While this public health challenge has affected our ability to meet in person and visit in community, we remain dedicated to service of SDNA goals and values.

Our priorities are safety for all and respect for Southern Dakelh governance.

RIGHTS AND TITLE

More than matters.

Matt Zucca



SDNA digitized over 100 hours of historical video and audio tape this past year thanks to the support of Library and Archives Canada. Many of these tapes build on the documented history of the Southern Dakelh found in the Canadian Museum of History.

Other tapes build on the work or were part of the work conducted by Sage Birchwater, Elizabeth Furniss and other professionals. Since some of the tapes included spoken Dakelh, Janie Jack was contracted to help understand those tapes to great effect.

It was a pleasure to see and hear Southern Dakelh history. For example, I saw a moose being processed following the traditional way. While it's hard to say what all this means, my impression after a first round of reflection is that there is a strong will for a cultural renaissance and that the tapes will help with that. Seeing that some of these tapes include people who are still with us as well as their parents and grandparents, the tapes will be a gift to those who wish to connect to their family and their family's history.

As of now, we are in talks about how to properly care for the digitized tapes, but rest assured they are safely and securely stored.

**May they find their way into
your hands and hearts.**

Our Directors.

SDNA supports the assertion of Southern Dakelh title and rights under the firm guidance of the three Southern Dakelh Chiefs, leaders chosen by and for Southern Dakelh People:



Chief Clifford Lebrun
Lhtako Dené Nation
cliff@lhtako.com
(250) 747-2900



Chief Liliane Squinas
Lhooskuz Dené First Nation
lsquinas@lhooskuz.com
(250) 992-3290



Chief Leah Stump
Nazko First Nation
leahstump@nazkoband.ca
(250) 992-9085

Shawn Holte Executive Director / Lead Negotiator
ed@dakelh.ca

Ray Joubert General Manager
manager@dakelh.ca

Candie Harris Finance Manager
finmgr@dakelh.ca

Cheryl Lidster Accountant
accountant@dakelh.ca

Mariana Flores Accounts Payable / Payroll Clerk
acctassist@dakelh.ca

Chris Cardamone Human Resources Coordinator
hr@dakelh.ca

Deanna Lloyd Office Administrator
coordinator@carrierchilcotin.org

Dina Stephenson Senior Administrative Assistant
dinas@carrierchilcotin.org

Tammy Keith Executive Assistant
execassist@dakelh.ca

Rob Dimmer Emergency Response Planning Coordinator
emergency@dakelh.ca

Nobi Suzuki Interim Lands & Resources Officer
Wildlife Ecologist / Geo-Spatial Analyst
ecologist@dakelh.ca

Matt Zucca Social Research Analyst
socarchival@dakelh.ca

Pauline Priadka Wildlife Biologist
wildlifebiologist@dakelh.ca

Heather Laurent Nazko Community Coordinator
nazkocommunity@dakelh.ca

Rene Jimmy Lhoosk'uz Dene Community Coordinator
lhooskuzcommunity@dakelh.ca

Our Staff.

Grease Trail Clearing Continues

Sboo'tih Ghe Ti is the main historic trade trail that brought in oolichan oil from the Nuxalk. Oolichan oil was traded for caribou hides and other items.

BERT GROENENBERG

Use and occupancy of the land is central to establishing rights and title for Dakelh traditional territory. Clearing the Sboo'tih Ghe Ti, the Grease Trail, to improve access helps use and occupancy

Sboo'tih Ghe Ti is the main historic trade trail that brought in oolichan oil from the Nuxalk. Oolichan oil was traded for caribou hides and other items.

Today the trail is still used by our communities and recreational hikers. Some wider and parallel sections of the trail are travelled on by local ranchers and tourism operators.

For the second consecutive year, we have been able to clear sections of the Grease Trail. This includes sections from Batnuni Trail Head (kilometer 64) east to Kluskus Village and beyond to Eliguk Lake. Last year, the clearing was southwest of Gatcho Lake to the Dean River.

Two new information kiosks have been installed; we are still working on suitable text to educate and guide trail visitors.

The picture shows a side-by-side vehicle on a wider section of the trail that is used by both foot travelers and all-terrain vehicles.

This trail is also notable because Southern Dakelh community members guided the Scottish explorer Alexander Mackenzie on this trail in 1793. From 1975 to 1986, members of the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route Association cleared the grown-in trail based on Mackenzie's detailed diaries and what seemed to be the original route. Other Grease Trails in BC have grown in and not been cleared.

Bert Groenenberg, Project Officer administered the clearing contract by a competitive bidding process.



Bert Groenenberg and Lorna Jimmie, the clearing contractor, on an inspection tour in late August.



SDNA

Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance

Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance (SDNA) supports the strong leadership of Lhooskuz Dené First Nation, Lhtako Dené Nation, and Nazko First Nation. We respect and serve the three member Southern Dakeh communities-- your Chiefs are our Directors.

Together, we assert inherent rights and title, support a vibrant economy, and work to sustain a healthy natural environment for SDNA member communities.

SDNA does not duplicate community work or make decisions for SDNA chiefs or Nations. SDNA supports the direction, vision, and decision-making of SDNA Chiefs as set out in the Strategic Plan.

SDNA provides:

- professional advice
- strategic support
- research and information

SDNA Chiefs identified six priorities, with goals and actions, to pursue over five years:

- Exercise rights and title
- Enhance health and wellness
- Stimulate economic development
- Manage natural resources
- Advance education and training
- Sustain governance and organizational resiliency

Some of our current priorities are:

- Reforestation opportunities
- Stewardship guardians
- Traditional land governance
- Nationwide Economic Development Plan
- Emergency management preparedness and training
- Culture and Wellness Strategy
- Nation Centre development
- Community Engagement Strategy

To learn more about SDNA or share your knowledge for the success of SDNA member Nations and Lands, visit www.dakelh.ca

**More than
matters.**

**NATIONAL DAY FOR
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

September 30, 2021, marked the first-ever National Day for Truth and Reconciliation-- a day to honour the Survivors of Canadian residential institutions and those who never made it home.

On this and every day, Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance supports the rights and wellness of the Southern Dakeh and all Indigenous Peoples.

**Reconciliation is a responsibility that
belongs to all Canadians.**



**If you or someone you know needs support, contact the
National Indian Residential School Crisis Line at
1-866-925-4419.**



Emerging Economic Opportunities for First Nations



*David Hill
Economic Development Strategy Advisor*

The Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance's foundational Strategic Plan clearly identifies Economic Development as strategic priority for the Nation. The SDNA has been working to turn that priority into action.

Over the past two years, the SDNA management, staff and community representatives have been working to identify opportunities that can bring economic benefits, employment and growth to the communities now, and to look for longer-term innovative opportunities that the Nation can invest in and pursue to thrive in a changing economy into the future.

We have been working on a number of fronts to try to implement the strategic priorities related to economic development. This work has included supporting communities and the Nation identify and work towards new business ventures; finding grant and funding opportunities to support recovery from COVID impacts; helping to prepare business plans and funding applications; engaging with municipal and provincial government in regional economic development planning, and facilitating meetings and connections with other companies and businesses operating in the territory.

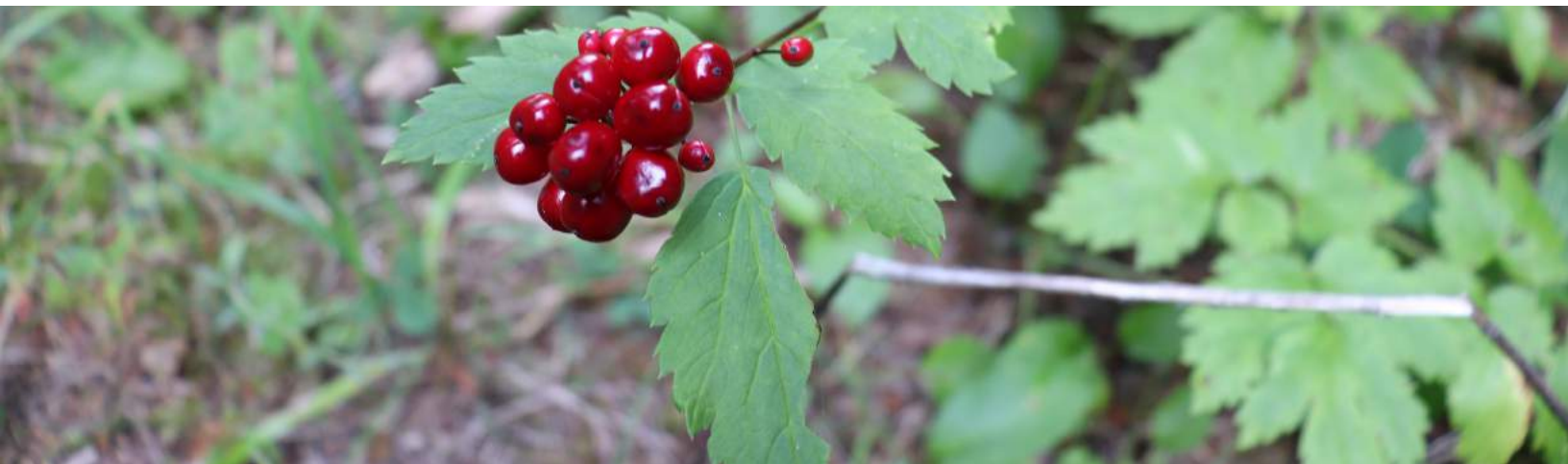
As we know, each community has different priorities, capacities and interests; and at the same time, the world and what we think of as the traditional economy are changing fast. While this creates challenges – particularly when it comes to working in traditional areas such as forestry or agriculture – we are also seeing great opportunity for Indigenous communities to take the lead in emerging new fields, right in your own backyard.

In addition to looking at expanding participation in conventional economic activities such as forestry, mining and agriculture, we have been researching some exciting new opportunities in emerging sustainable energy, carbon capture, land restoration and food security ventures. We are even exploring the potential for SDNA communities to turn wastewood and non-timber fiber into hydrogen to be used for commercial vehicle fuelling and power production as part of the Provincial Hydrogen strategy, or developing and building a clean energy technology and innovation centre in the heart of your territory.

These exciting projects could transform the landscape, attract significant investment, and create meaningful jobs and careers for SDNA members to live and thrive in your own Nation.

An important part of that process will be to get community members actively participating in the Economic Development Working Group Table, where we can share ideas, provide direction for SDNA, and build on collective strengths and opportunities.

Looking forward to 2022, we are hopeful to be back in the communities, working with the member Nations of the Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance to build on your goals and vision for the future, and support sustainable, meaningful and values-based economic development for future generations.



SURVEY OF GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN CARIBOU RECOVERY FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE NEEDS

▼ **Nobi Suzuki, Wildlife Ecologist**
Pauline Priadka, Wildlife Biologist

Provincial and federal government agencies often ask First Nations to provide Indigenous Knowledge for the purpose of species recovery, wildlife conservation, and resource management. However, the requests by government agencies to obtain Indigenous Knowledge are often vague and do not specify how this information will be used. We are concerned that valuable but sensitive Indigenous Knowledge is being gathered without clear strategies or objectives of how it will inform species recovery and management.

In this project, we asked provincial and federal government staff who have been involved in caribou recovery projects to share their non-Indigenous perspectives on: 1) Indigenous Knowledge that would likely have tangible benefits to caribou recovery and conservation; and 2) Indigenous Knowledge that directly describes socio-cultural, economic, and ecological values of caribou. We sent a total of 15 surveys by email to selected staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (FLNRORD) and Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC). We followed initial email requests with monthly reminders when surveys were not returned.

Approximately half of surveys that were sent out to government staff were completed and returned (53%; Figure 1).

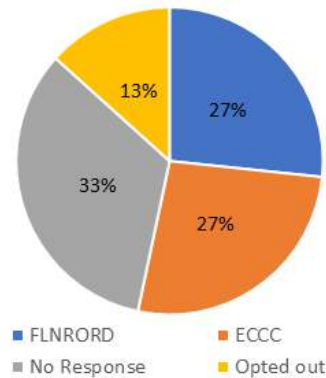


Figure 1. Response rates for surveys submitted to FLNRORD and ECCC staff.

The survey respondents indicated multiple sources of Indigenous Knowledge that would likely have tangible benefits to caribou recovery and conservation, including historic and current distribution of caribou, caribou habitat use as well as behavior related to migration and reproduction (Figure 2).



16 Figure 2. Specific Indigenous knowledge expressed by FLNRORD and ECCC staff to benefit conservation and/or recovery of caribou populations in British Columbia.



When asked what socially, culturally, or other relevant information pertaining to caribou should be gathered, respondents were most interested in obtaining historic/traditional and current Indigenous use of caribou, as well as reasons why caribou are an important species to Indigenous Peoples (Figure 3).

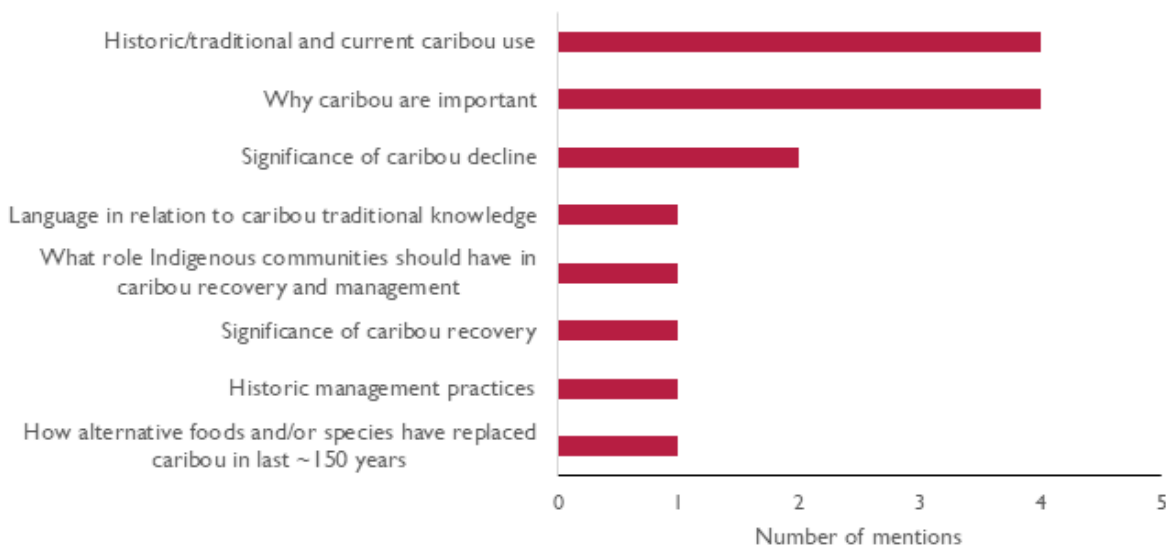


Figure 3. Socially, culturally, or other relevant information pertaining to caribou expressed by FLNRORD and ECCC staff to benefit conservation and/or recovery of caribou populations in British Columbia.



COMMUNICATIONS

Kerry Redman



STEPPING UP WITH STORIES

SDNA completed a communications plan in 2021 at the direction of the Chiefs of Lhooskuz Dené First Nation, Lhtako Dené Nation, and Nazko First Nation. Work on the three-phase plan began in Spring 2021.

Phase One included improving our website, cleaning up our existing logo, and working on a new look for our newsletter. Phase Two included creating some new tools and preparing to spend time and learn from the members of the three Southern Dakelh communities.

So much has happened. Phases One and Two are wrapping up, with the website launch scheduled for December 2021 and staff learning to reach out and tell stories in different ways. We are all learning. All communication, including this work, has been challenging.

Ongoing residential institution findings, health risks due to Covid-19, and repeated states of emergency due to wildfires and floods has really affected the way we connect, our gatherings, activities, and travel. I thought I would have met many of you by now and spent time with families and on the land. That hasn't happened yet.

Phase Three of the plan is even more challenging with all that is going on, as it includes visiting with communities and learning directly from Southern Dakelh Lands and People.

More than anything, we respect Southern Dakelh governance and want to keep the communities safe.

We are working together with Southern Dakelh leadership to try new ways to work together for the protection of your Keyoh and health and opportunity for living and future generations. As we have all discovered, creativity and technology help us stay connected. Facetime with family, video meetings with colleagues, and social media chat with friends have replaced in-person gatherings.

We can't wait to host meals and have the opportunity to get together, share the work we are doing, and get feedback from you in person. For now, we are going to try some new ways to reach out and hear back, including social media and virtual gatherings.

In the meantime, if you are from Lhooskuz Dené First Nation, Lhtako Dené Nation, and Nazko First Nation and you have photographs you want to share, stories you want to tell, or questions you want to ask, I am happy to hear from you.

**Send me an email at
comm1@dakelh.ca**

Give me a call at 604.567.79

**01 or follow and send messages to the
new SDNA Facebook or LinkedIn
accounts.**



In June 2021, members of SDNA staff met with the SDNA Board of Directors-your Chiefs-to review our strategic plan and hear some feedback on the work we are doing for Southern Dakelh communities. This drawing was created by graphic facilitator Briony Penn as a record of what the Chiefs agree is working well.

UTV TRAINING

**DINA
STEPHENSON**



Nine staff members from **Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance** and **Cariboo Chilcotin Tribal Council**, as well as Frank Boucher from Lhtako Dene Nation (Fisheries) attended an ATV/UTV training course September 14, 2021.



This was an all-day event and all participants went home with a training certificate. It was a rainy day but we all had fun.



Staff members included:

CCTC: Corina Clement, Jennifer Wiggins, Cathy Frew, Cassandra Abel, Bert Groenenberg

SDNA: Matt Zucca, Dina Stephenson, Nobu Suzuki, Pauline Priadka

EMERGENCY RELIEF RESPONSE



Thanks to Rob Dimmer, SDNA communities and staff, and all emergency relief respondents for the ongoing watchfulness and communications regarding emergencies that affect Southern Dakelh Peoples and Lands. This includes response to the heavy water and flood risk we see in fall and spring, as well as summer wildfires. Concerns for the land and the safety of our communities are priorities we all share. By working together as three communities, we have a greater chance of protecting more Southern Dakelh land, animals, plants, waters, and people.

Chris Cardamone (Human Resources) delivering water and other goods during summer relief efforts.



Merry Christmas!

to Lhooskuz Dené First Nation,
Lhtako Dené Nation,
and Nazko First Nation from
Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance



Visit www.dakelh.ca to learn more about SDNA.

Follow, like, and share.

Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance is now on Facebook and LinkedIn.



Say hello to us on Facebook and share your content from Southern Dakelh Keyoh.



Follow us on LinkedIn for employment and education opportunities.



Follow us on social media for stewardship stories, Nation building successes, updates, job postings, and events.