



SDNA

Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance

Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation

Lhtako Dené Nation

Newsletter

February / March 2023

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PROJECT



Loretta Williams

SDNA continues their work to support our communities on phase one of the Children and Families research project. The research for the Children and Families project is to compile information for a report that includes input from Elders, families, consultants and the Health Team. This report will be turned over to communities by the end of March. The communities can then use the results of that research to move forward.

Since my last update, we have held interviews and community engagement sessions in Quesnel and Lhoosk'uz. We thank all members for the information shared. We know this work is heavy and it takes courage and strength to say what needs to be said. We heard how children were cared for prior to settler contact, how things are today, and what is seen for the future. It will take dedicated time, care, and determination to put these plans into play. The Dakeh has what it needs to prepare for the future.

We thank everyone, again, who came out and gave input for this very important work and invite anyone to contact the SDNA Health Team (250-398-3375) with any questions or input.

"The children are our future, and we need to do everything possible to assist them to succeed and be our leaders on into the future, for generations to come." Loretta

By: Loretta Williams—SDNA Community Engagement Coordinator



Photo by: Michal Jarmoluk (pixabay)

LHTAKO HEALING WEEK

Lhtako Dené Nation had a healing week from January 23 to January 26, 2023.

Morning and afternoon prayers were held every day. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were provided to all who attended.

Reiki practitioners and traditional healers had a big role in this event. Coloring, beading, and drum making were some of many activities people could engage in.

After the January 25, Phase II Results of St. Joseph's Mission were announced, a prayer was held for all the people affected by the findings. This was a very emotional moment for all.

Tobacco ties were made and were burned in a sacred fire after.

By Corina Clement and Valerie Setah



Images from Lhtako Healing Week

Photo credit: Corina Clement



LEADING FIRST NATIONS INITIATIVES - SDNA HELPING TRU LAW STUDENTS

First Nations Governance and Economic Development:

On November 23, 2022, Ray Joubert, General Manager - Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance was a guest lecturer at TRU Law's First Nations Governance and Economic Development class. Ray's lecture covered Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance's unique governance structure, innovative approaches to federal and provincial agreements, and other latest developments. Ray was invited to TRU Law by Murray Sholty, LL.M., LL.M., MBA, JD.

Murray Sholty, TRU Law - Quotes:

"Ray's lecture on the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance's initiatives interlinked well with TRU Law's larger efforts to include First Nations dimensions in its programs, and continued relationship-building with First Nations peoples."

"His lecture perfectly tied in Aboriginal law, SDNA's innovative initiatives, and the practical challenges with implementing these important reconciliation efforts."

"Ray gave students the chance to hear about theory and practices coming together. This was reflected in the students inquisitive questions about all areas of SDNA's work, from First Nations working relationships to economic reconciliation, and other nation building endeavors."

By Murray Sholty

Photo credit: Cara Karpluk, TRU Faculty of Law



Photo: Ray Joubert, General Manager - Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance



Photo from left to right:

Ray Joubert, General Manager - Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance and Murray Sholty, Faculty of Law, Thompson River University

SDNA STAFF CORNER

This month we would like to introduce to you Pauline Priadka.

Hadih! My name is Pauline Priadka and I am the Wildlife Biologist with the Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance. I am working with Southern Dakeh Nations to develop wildlife monitoring programs that promote land and natural resource stewardship, and provide capacity to manage culturally important species such as mountain caribou, moose, and grizzly bears. Before starting my position here, I was completing my PhD in ecology on optimizing moose monitoring in Ontario and graduated in 2022. I also completed my Master's in Natural Resources Management on the genetic connectivity of boreal caribou in central Canada.

In my role as Wildlife Biologist with the SDNA, I have started a camera-trap study for the Barkerville caribou herd and a genetic monitoring project to understand caribou herd connectivity in the Chilcotin and Cariboo regions. If you are interested in learning more about these projects or have any questions, please contact me.

You can reach Pauline at wildlifebiologist@dakeh.ca or (250)-398-3375 ext. 304.



ELDER'S CORNER

I remember as a child and being home from the residential school for the festivities of Christmas. During the year our mother the late Amy Boyd (Clement) would save all the candy wrappers. We as children would make small ribbons out of the wrappers and tie with strings, or thread. The men would be out cutting small pine trees. They would make a trail from the main road to the church and they would put the small pine trees on both sides of the trail right to the church. We would help decorate the trees with the candy wrappers. Nothing was bought.

I remember the excitement waiting for the priest to arrive for our midnight mass Christmas Eve. We did this to welcome the priest to our community. Then we would wait for our relatives coming from Lhoosk'uz and sometimes our friends from

the chlicotin community and Ulkatcho community would come for our midnight mass. The excitement was felt standing outside waiting for lamps to appear on the clearing on the road from Lhoosk'uz, just above the reserve. As soon as we see the lights from the kerosene lamps our people hear they are coming down the hill. People would start shooting off their guns. It would sound like fireworks. This was our way of welcoming our friends and relatives from surrounding communities. Then we waited wondering who is coming to our house to spend Christmas with us. We always made room for them. It was such a happy festive time of the year for everyone. There was no drinking just spending time with our friends playing cards, and sometimes a dance. It was our people spending time together. Submitted by Doreen Patrick



Doreen Patrick