



**Southern Dakeh
Nation Alliance**

Newsletter

Hubulhsooninats'Uhoot'alh: "together we will fix it"

May 2021

SDNA Making Progress

Travel may be restricted but the phones, emails, and on-line technology still allow us to continue our work. Although in the past year, SDNA has seen no major announcements, photo opportunities or signings, we are slowly making progress.

After three years of hard work, the first draft of the **Land Stewardship Plan** is complete. The vision is to protect and sustainably manage ecosystems within our traditional territory. We will be getting input on it in the coming months.

SDNA's Terrestrial Ecologist **Nobi Suzuki** has been the main Southern Dakeh Nation representative on endangered Caribou. We are working with our member communities and representatives from the federal, provincial and Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) on this.

As we did last spring, in April we worked on supplying input for Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) regulation.

In conjunction with our communities, SDNA is participating in forest planning in the Quesnel Timber Supply Area, hard hit by both recent fires and decades of overharvesting to salvage beetle killed lodgepole pine trees.

Due to COVID19, Grease Trail gatherings were not possible but some trail clearing was done in late fall.

Staff Changes

In the spring of 2020, we hired a Health Manager, **Doron Pollachek** who many of you have met. **Nobi Suzuki** is now the interim Land and Resources Officer. **Matt Zucca** has taken over Social Science work. We recently welcomed our new Wildlife Biologist, **Pauline Priadka** is focusing on moose, caribou and other ungulates. In finance, **Mariana Flores** is our new Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk and **Cheryl Lister** is our new Accountant. **Cassandra Abel** has taken the new position of Health Coordinator.

There may be new employment and contract opportunities posted soon. Check at dakeh.ca/jobs.

Orchestrating it all are Executive Director **Shawn Holte** and General Manager **Ray Joubert**.



Jamie Tanis and Lorna Jimmie on cleared Grease Trail west of Gatcho Village

Grease Trail Clearing Work

Sboo'tih Ghe Ti (Sboo-tee-whey-tee), the Grease Trail is the Southern Dakeh Nation's heritage "highway" and trade trail. Late last year, several contracts were signed to clear trail in the central and western sections. Lorna Leon Contracting and Nazko Silviculture LLP were the contractors.

Later this year, we will invite contracts for a range of work including installing signs, toilets and some trail clearing. The funds come from First Nation Health Authority and are administered by the Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council.



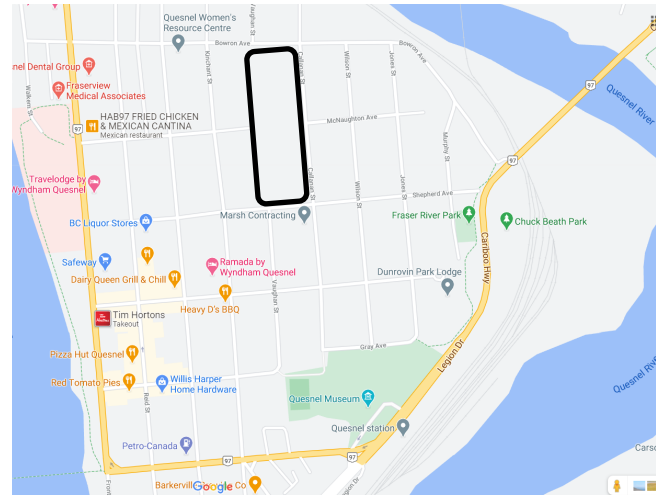
Burned landscape near Km 64 on the Grease Trail

Southern Dakeh Nation Centre Planning Continues

One important project for the Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance is the Nation Centre. Planned for the City of Quesnel, it would house a range of Dakeh Nation services while meeting some needs of Quesnel residents as well.

Our preferred site is near downtown where Quesnel Junior Secondary School use to be. Last year, the old school and several adjacent buildings were torn down.

So what would be built on this two block area? Besides our Nation Centre, we are envisioning a mix of uses including housing for seniors and others. There will be green space and maybe an arts or recreational facility. Our Southern Dakeh representatives are drafting several conceptual plans with the City of Quesnel, the Province and professional planners.



New Communications Specialist Starts Work



Hello to all! My name is **Kerry Redman**. I belong to the Algonquin Nation and am a member of Greater Golden Lake First Nation, located in the Ottawa River Valley, Ontario, where most of my family lives. I have lived in British Columbia for over 20 years and worked for more than ten years as a writer, consultant, and Indigenous communication specialist, with particular interest in sharing stories, language and culture, self-governance, land stewardship, and child and family wellness. I am a graduate of the School of Communication and Culture at Royal Roads University (BAPC).

With Redman Communication, I aim to use my writing and

communication skills to contribute in a good way to Indigenous personal, social, and economic development. My current responsibilities to Indigenous businesses, communities, and organizations are as a consumer and corporate communications specialist with Indigenous Tourism BC and as a planner for Alderhill Planning, an Indigenous owned and operated company of leading experts in Indigenous community planning.

Redman Communication is excited to be working with SDNA and the Lhoosk'uz Dené, Ulkatcho, Lhtako Dene and Nazko communities to achieve the goals set by Leadership and staff in the current SDNA communications plan. We are focused on communication goals that support a shared mission to exercise rights and title, enhance health and wellness, manage natural resources, advance education and training, and sustain governance and organizational resiliency for Southern Dakeh People.

David Hill

Cornerstone
Planning Group



David Hill is a community development planner and engagement advisor, working with SDNA's economic development and operational planning team.

David holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Victoria and a Certificate in Project Management through Camosun College.

For the past two decades, David has worked with over 25 Indigenous communities and organizations from the far north to Southeast BC, and all points in between, developing organizational strategic plans, community health plans and economic development strategies.

David also works with private sector companies and government agencies to help ensure engagement is honourable and meaningful, and provides mutually beneficial outcomes for Indigenous communities.

David's work with SDNA focuses on refining and developing an implementation strategy for SDNA's Economic Development Priorities, as well as supporting planning and reporting for the organization as a whole.

David lives in Victoria with his wife, two University-aged children and an apartment-sized dog.

Health Manager's Note

Chanalya to senior management and Bert Groenenberg for newsletter renewal! At CCTC-SDNA Health we are welcoming the opportunity to share with you what we are doing for you, and planning to work together as soon as COVID protocols will allow.



I would like to tell you a little bit about me and what I bring to the table: I am originally from the ancient tribal nation of Israel that recently re-established its traditional land. Israel is also one of the only nations that has successfully revitalized its language after thousands of years of persecution with the Holocaust at the peak. The oldest of three children, I was named Doron by my mother, which means 'a gift' in our language.

I have spent over 20 years, in different capacities, helping to improve the health and wellness of marginalized, underprivileged, and Indigenous peoples and communities. I graduated as a Doctor specialized in developing healthy communities, then took further FN studies and engaged with Elders in the Yukon, with the intention to learn and help bring positive change to communities. I am feeling privileged to work for the Dakelh Dené Nation!

In the year since I was hired, I have been learning what your needs are and how we can build a department to achieve our shared goals. I have been working on four major projects:

- 1) developing an interface among cultural, traditional, and western models of care that would support prevention and treatment of Mental Health and Substance Use disorders.
- 2) enhancing culture through our Family Services and Traditional Wellness Workers.
- 3) supporting negotiations on Rights and Title with the Province and Canada to ensure that the necessary resources will be available to enhance our Health and Wellness, and
- 4) laying the foundations for both the communities' Health and Wellness plans and the Nation's Health and Wellness Strategy.

We look forward to sharing with you information related to these projects. Much work is needed, so we also look forward to engaging with you in a collaborative way.

The past year has posed even more challenges to everyone's daily life, but that too shall pass. We are all in this pandemic together, but we can continue to grow our wellness and rebuild our Nation **today – for our children and grandchildren tomorrow!**

Finally, I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to our health team and senior management in supporting this exciting opportunity.

In wellness, Doron

Health is the New Wealth

Behind the Scenes: Your SDNA staff

This time, we feature **Tammy Keith** and **Pauline Priadka**.

Hi, my name is **Tammy Keith** and a long-time resident of Williams Lake with a few moves to Kamloops for schooling. I have been the SDNA Executive Assistant since September 2017. With being an assistant for Shawn Holte the Executive Director, I am involved in many aspects of SDNA. I have seen it grow from myself being the first hired SDNA staff member to a much larger organization with a group of talented individuals wanting to see SDNA be successful and continue to grow. Our goal is to assist the communities in what they feel is important to them and what they need to move ahead. Most of my day to day is organizing meetings and coordinating with staff on daily tasks.



I am an outdoors country girl at heart and in my off time I love to compete in barrel racing, gymkhana, cattle sorting and enjoy trail riding with my two horses. I am a certified Horticulturist from Thompson Rivers University and have really enjoyed the agriculture side of my training. I have business training and have run my own horse business since 2007 and love giving riding lessons, training horses and boarding them. My family has been in Williams Lake for a long time and I am proud to be able to do my part to help all our communities succeed.

Covid has been challenging but work has continued and we have rallied together to keep things moving forward.



Pauline Priadka, MNRM; BSc is a Wildlife Biologist in the Land Stewardship Department and works directly with, and on behalf of, the four member Nations to ensure their rights, perspectives and concerns are upheld in decision-making regarding wildlife at both provincial and federal levels.

Pauline is currently working on stewardship and planning processes for southern mountain caribou and moose populations within the four member Nations' territories. To do this, we are establishing collaborative and autonomous monitoring programs that will foster co-management of wildlife and support Indigenous governance.

Pauline enjoys any activity that allows her to spend time outdoors, especially exploring hiking trails.


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Pauline is completing her PhD in Boreal Ecology at Laurentian University and has a Master's in Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba and a BSc in Wildlife Biology from the University of Guelph.



Our regular office hours are Monday to Thursday: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM closing for lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM. Friday we work from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

By developing this database, SDNA has made big strides in documenting the lives and culture of the Southern Dakhelh throughout recorded history. The works collected span several



Neat, huh?

