

NOVEMBER 2020

THAIDENE NĒNÉ NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

As implementation continues, the Thaidene Néné team is looking for new and better ways to communicate with members and visitors. You may have noticed that we are posting more regularly and more often on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and also on the Land of the Ancestors website. We are aware, however, that not everyone has social media accounts. We also thought it would be helpful to have all of the information about what we have been up to and what we have planned in one place. For these reasons, we are launching a Thaidene Néné community newsletter. We hope to issue the newsletter a few times a year. As this is the first newsletter and it has been a busy year so far, this issue will be a little longer than normal. If you have suggestions for the newsletter or for Thaidene Néné operations, please let us know. Our door is always open.

ŁUTSĚL K'Ē WINS A 2020 EQUATOR PRIZE

In June, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced that ŁutsĚl K'Ē Dene First Nation was a recipient of a 2020 Equator Prize for leading the development of Thaidene Nĕnĕ. LKDFN was one of ten Indigenous and local communities from around the world recognized for pursuing sustainable development through nature-based solutions.

As we are living through a global pandemic, the award ceremony was a little different than usual. Representatives from the UNDP, award recipients, and a global audience gathered virtually on September 29 as the hosts live emceed more than 45 pre-recorded videos.

ŁutsĚl K'Ē Elder JC Catholique opened the ceremony with a blessing. The Thaidene Nĕnĕ portion of the ceremony also featured LKDFN members Steven Nitah, Addie Jonasson, and Stephanie Poole.



UPCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

The Firecircle Business Development course begins on **November 9, 2020**. This is an online program that can be done at your own pace. At the end of the 25-week course, successful participants will have a marketable business plan. Contact: Ray Griffith (867-445-1817).

In June, the Thaidene Nĕnĕ team and WLED staff moved into Unit 24. The membership is invited to an office opening on **November 13, 2020**. Contact: Iris Catholique (867-370-3820, ext 1005).

Stay tuned in **November** for the official launch of Caribou Peoples Creations, an online retail store. The store will help expand the market for local craftspeople. Hanna Catholique is coordinating the purchase of local crafts at the ŁutsĚl K'Ē Dene First Nation; Rosie Catholique is photographing the items and managing sales. For more information, call 867-370-7006.

Frontier Lodge is planning for its furniture to be made in ŁutsĚl K'Ē from locally harvested wood, including birch. Harvesting will take place in **November**. A furniture building training program is being planned for **Spring 2021**. For more information, call 867-370-3820, ext 1004.

The Aurora College Retail and Hospitality Training that was planned for May-June 2020 has been rescheduled to **February-March 2021**. This full-time, two-month program will be a prerequisite for working with Frontier Lodge, unless you are a returning guide. Contact: Ray Griffith (867-445-1817).

NI HAT'NI DENE

Four full-time Ni Hat'ni Dene Guardians were hired in January: two senior guardians, Joseph Catholique and Jason Michel, and two junior guardians, Chase Lockhart and Denecho Catholique. Ni Hat'ni Dene Guardians are responsible for delivering programs that promote Dēnesųtíné culture, stewarding the environment, and enhancing visitor experience in Thaidene Nēné. Regardless of the season, the Guardians travel on the land, living a subsistence lifestyle as our ancestors did.

In the spring, the Guardians travelled to Tł'ombálı Tué (Tent Lake), Nunie Dezé (Wolf Creek), and ʔedacho Tłaze (Timber Bay) to monitor ʔetthēn (caribou). They checked the location and health of ʔetthēn. They noticed a lot of red foxes, martens, muskoxen, wolverines, and many wolves in their travels. They also conducted caribou sampling tests.

Through July and August, Ni Hat'ni Dene Guardians were busy with the summer monitoring program, which includes water quality testing and fish sampling. They also interacted with visitors to Thaidene Nēné, conducting surveys and answering questions.

As the weather cooled, the Ni Hat'ni crew travelled with Elders August Enzoe and Albert Boucher and carpenters Gilbert Abel and Jordan Michel to ʔedacho Kúe (Artillery Lake) to work on the community's cabin at ʔedacho Tłaze (Timber Bay).

There are additional trainings planned for the Ni Hat'ni program this fall, as the Guardians prepare for winter monitoring. The Guardians will also be helping with traditional teaching at youth on the land camps co-hosted by the Thaidene Nēné and LKDFN Wellness teams.



The Guardians would like to remind all harvesters to stay safe and always check in with them at their monitoring camp, which will be located at Pikes Portage this year. Also, please follow the Yúnethé Xá ʔetthēn Hádi (LKDFN's Caribou Stewardship Plan) and respect our hunting protocols.



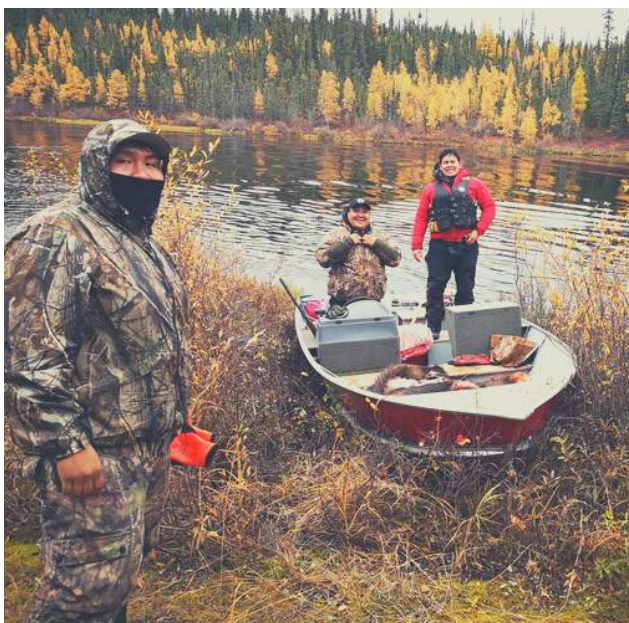
LEARNING & HUNTING WITH JASON EDMUNDS

Adventure Canada facilitator Jason Edmunds (Inuk) visited Łutsël K'é for two weeks in September to deliver visitor engagement training to Ni Hat'ni Dene Guardians and other members of the Thaidene Nënë team.

The training, which took place on the land at Łutsël K'é's culture camp, covered topics including visitor expectations, communication and approachability techniques, building the visitor experience, cultural interpretation, and conflict resolution. Jason found the Ni Hat'ni Dene Guardians to be "welcoming, informative, and passionate about their land and culture."

Over the weekend, the Ni Hat'ni crew took Jason out on the land. They were able to show him both the beauty and abundance of Thaidene Nënë. After butchering the young bull moose they harvested, the Guardians shared the meat with the women who attended the Łutsël K'e Women's Retreat.

While in Łutsël K'e, Jason also facilitated conflict management training for LKDFN staff.



THAIDENE NĒNÉ CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

On October 16, the Thaidene Nënë team launched a photo contest to gather images for the 2021 calendar. The contest is open to all residents of and visitors to the NWT. We are looking for photos that capture the many beautiful and diverse landscapes of Thaidene Nënë and the activities that residents and visitors alike enjoy in the Land of the Ancestors in each of the four seasons.

Every Friday between October 23 and December 19, we will select a photo to be included in the calendar. The lucky photographer will also receive a Thaidene Nënë hoodie and t-shirt.



Ryan MacDonald, First Weekly Winner
Thaidene Nënë Calendar Photo Contest

LKDFN members can enter by sharing photos of Thaidene Nënë on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and using the hashtags: #ThaideneNene and #FrontierLodge. You may also submit up to five photos by email to ThaideneNeneDigital@gmail.com or tdndepartment@gmail.com.

INTRODUCING THE THAIDENE NĒNÉ SWAG



You may have noticed slick new Thaidene Nënë swag around the community. The hoodies and t-shirts feature the Thaidene Nënë logo, which was designed by Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation member, Kaya Casaway.

Growing up in Łutsël K'é, Kaya spent a lot of time on the land with her parents, Maryrose and Modeste Casaway, her sister, Marcy, and her brother, Dez. Now based in Columbus, Ohio, Kaya is a skilled illustrator and designer.

The Thaidene Nënë logo grew out of Kaya's love and longing for the land. "I miss it everyday," she admits. In Kaya's words, the logo is meant to capture "the love that we have as Łutsël K'é Dene for our land, culture, and people." Marsı cho Kaya for sharing your creativity with Łutsël K'é and the world!



Thaidene Nënë hoodies and t-shirts are available at our office. Call 867-370-3820, ext 1005, or email tdndepartment@gmail.com.

FRONTIER LODGE

This has been a difficult year for the tourism industry generally and for Frontier Lodge in particular. The Lodge had to cancel all 2020 bookings. While the vast majority of the Frontier clients are interested in re-booking for next year, it is still unclear if the Lodge will be able to open at that time.

The Lodge made the best of a challenging situation by using the time without clients to undertake some much needed infrastructure upgrades. With funding from CANNOR & GNWT (ITI), as well as the ongoing support of the Łutsël K'É Dene First Nation, renovations included sprucing up the cabins; updating the entire site's electrical system; replacing flooring in the Lodge and cabins; installing pine panelling; and upgrading the washroom facilities and heating systems for the cabins. The Lodge was able to hire local contractors for some of this work.

Frontier Lodge is planning a community open house in the spring to showcase the renovations, if COVID-19/public health guidelines permit. In the meantime, work on the site will continue.

Looking ahead to the 2021 season, Frontier is seeking LKDFN members who are interested in starting their own businesses to either support the Lodge or provide new programming and activities to Lodge clients. Even if the border remains closed next year, there may be opportunities for local businesses to provide tourism services to NWT residents.

The Frontier Lodge board and general manager, and local economic development officers are here to help anyone committed to developing their own tourism business in Thaidene Néné.

For more information, contact Corey Myers (1-877-465-6843 | frontier.fishing@gmail.com) or Ray Griffith (867-445-1817).

