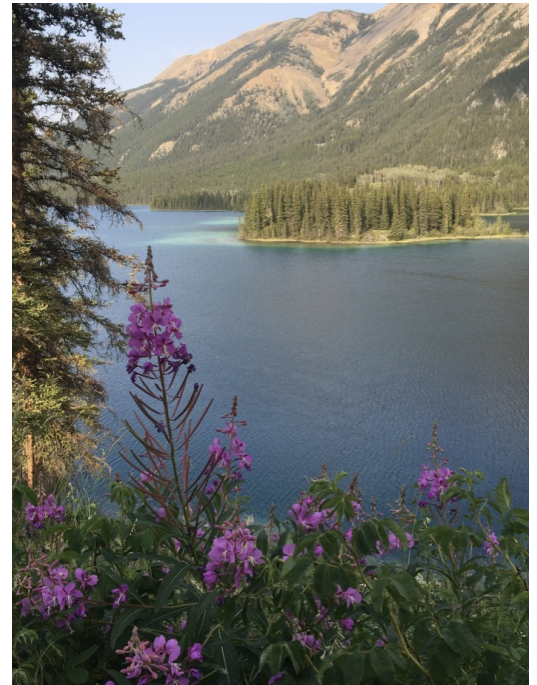


# Newsletter September

## OPEN COMMUNICATION

Thank you to all who attended the Tsa Cho Forestry community engagement session on July 16! Your comments and concerns were heard and I am actively taking the necessary steps to improve. **Open communication** was identified as a top priority for community members, and the DRDC wants to **bridge the communication gaps** that currently exist to create more positive and collaborative relationships. The DRDC office has an **open door policy**. Should anyone wish to ask questions they are welcome to stop by the office and I would be happy to answer any questions to the best of my ability. However, should any questions require further research or discussion I ask you to please be patient as we are working hard to put in place a system of **electronic forums for questions** that will hold the DRDC accountable. A **website** is being developed, a members only facebook page specifically related to Tsa Cho Forestry is being discussed and **regular quarterly newsletters** such as this one will be distributed in the community.



## PARTNER PROFILE

This partnership is specific to the Silvertip mine project. Our partnership with **Small's Expediting** is continually evolving and flourishing. They are committed to providing opportunities for **employment to Kaska members**. Any DRFN members

interested in taking advantage of this valuable partnership are advised to **visit the DRDC office**.



## DIRECTORS

**We would like to formally welcome our new DRDC board of directors!**

Matt Swenson, Cat Lee and Cynthia Kearns will all be excellent additions to our board of directors. They will work collaboratively to ensure the continued progress and success of the DRDC.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Air North Flight Services

Air North is looking at expanding the flights they offer in the Yukon. The proposed expansion will include flights to Watson Lake and there is the possibility of a partnership between the DRDC and Air North that may provide preferred rates to members of DRFN. The ability for members to fly in and out of Watson Lake would dramatically increase the accessibility of Good

Hope Lake. Increased accessibility would mean that it would be possible for members to live in community and commute to work elsewhere. It would also make visiting the community much easier for our members that are currently living outside of Good Hope Lake. The DRDC will keep you updated on all the details as we gain more information regarding this possible partnership and what it can mean for the community.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The DRDC has 14 active partnerships with companies in the region who are all **committed to employing DRFN members**. The DRDC itself also has several positions available within the community of Good Hope Lake. There is a **multitude of work available** for any DRFN members who are willing to take the initiative to seek it out. We strongly encourage anyone seeking



employment or anyone who is unsure about what type of employment there is in the region to **visit Elvis at the DRDC office**. He will be able to assess what your skills and goals are and match them with available jobs. Please do not be deterred by education or certification requirements that exist for some jobs. Employment opportunities are varied and the DRDC can also help you with obtaining the necessary training or education you may need. Employment is critical to creating a strong, resilient and healthy community. We believe that with the right support and some handwork anyone can be successful. **Please let the DRDC support you on your path to success.**



# Your Tsa Cho Forestry Questions Answered

## Q&A

### **What type of logging is the proposed 97,000 cubic meters per year based on?**

That will be determined by the community, a thorough analysis will be completed to provide the information that will help make an informed decision. Both clear cut logging and select logging are options that the Nation will have the power to decide on. Traditional territory, trap lines, tourism, aesthetics, wildlife, wildfire risk and economics are all factors that the Nation will want to consider when deciding what type of logging to use in a specific area.

### **What is currently happening to the burnt timber from the fire?**

Burnt timber should be harvested within two years of a fire otherwise the timber loses its value. Therefore the timber that was burnt from the previous wildfire would no longer be viable to sell or process. If there is concern about what other logging companies are doing in that area, securing the license would give DRFN control over that area. It is beneficial to clear the timber even if it no longer possesses any economic value because as trees fall it becomes more difficult for animals to travel through the forests and it may negatively impact the migratory patterns of animals in the region.

### **Do you have to log the land after securing the license or can you just sit on it? What is the fee per year to have the license?**

The license will be entirely owned by DRFN and therefore it is the Nation's decision if they wish to log the land or not. However, the annual fee to have the license is \$10,000. If there is enough money to secure the license and then not log the land or attempt to generate revenue that is option.



The other option is to participate in logging which should generate enough revenue to pay for the license fee and also create jobs and a revenue surplus.

### **Is there maximum or minimum cut blocks required?**

No, that will be determined by the Forest Management Plan that will be developed for the license and guided by the Management Plan. Consultation with DRFN community members will be built into the Forest Management plan. The quantity of cut blocks and size cut blocks can be varied and adapted to specific locations and community needs.

### **What happens to the waste that comes off of the logs?**

There is often valuable wood left in the waste piles. Therefore it is advantageous to try to find an alternative to burning and to use as much wood from the waste piles as possible. Depending on the type of waste (limbs, tops and other non-merchantable components) an economic use may be found. Currently biomass to generate electricity and heat are being considered, there is also potential to make wood pellets for the regional market. The wood pellet option would utilize waste generated from milling activities. Wood pellets can supply the community with a cleaner and less labor intensive method of heating homes.

### **What are some alternatives to shipping the harvested logs over seas?**

There is an opportunity to undertake sawmilling operations within the community, this would eliminate the need to ship logs away to be processed. It may also be economically viable to sell to other sawmills in the province, this however is entirely dependent on timber pricing.

### **How can we ensure the health of the forests?**

By being an active manager of the forests, Tsa Cho will be in a position to respond to forest health issues such as insects, blights and wildfires. Proper silviculture practices will also maintain forest health for the long term by planting the correct species in the right areas. Seeds can be harvested from the local trees before they are cut so that the seeds can be kept and re-planted following logging to ensure they are properly adapted to the area.

### **When would logging in the area begin?**

Harvesting would not begin until winter of 2020, at it's earliest. Tsa Cho would have management control over the area once the license is secured and would then decide whether or not to log after creating a plan that supports the communities vision. If a decision to log is made then it will take time to identify markets, create a strategy for processing timber, train employees and obtain necessary equipment. Therefore securing a license does not mean that work will begin immediately.

### **Will there be any training offered to members?**

Yes! In fact, funding has already been secured to offer entrepreneurial training in 2019 and in 2020. Furthermore, there will be job specific training opportunities for all elements of forestry operations, from tree planting to forest engineering and forest planning to logging to sawmilling. When the comprehensive training will be offered is yet to be determined and will be planned with the community. There are employment opportunities not only in logging but in forest management prior to logging.