



# NEWSLETTER

December 2021 | Issue 43

## Client Success Story: Tsal'alh Development Corp



Congratulations to the Tsal'alh Development Corporation!

### **SPACE TO GATHER** • Celebrating the Tsal'alh community gazebo

Up until recently, members of the Tsal'alh community had few places to host outdoor events like weddings or celebrations. Tsal'ahl knew that that this needed to change, especially if they wanted to build on the tourism potential of Tsal'alh's awe-inspiring abundance waterfalls, lakes and mountains.



Our team was able to support Tsal'alh in successfully securing funding to construct a community gazebo. Made out of Yellow cedar, it will be a multi-purpose space that the community can use for gatherings. And as you can see in the picture below, the gazebo is only a few steps away from the Lil'tem Mountain Hotel, providing a beautiful gathering spot for members and visitors alike.



The Gazebo will promote St'at'imc culture to visitors at the Lil'tem Mountain Hotel (pictured in the background)

In 2020, archeological research revealed evidence of large villages and even 'mega' villages with settlements of up to 130 s7istken (house-pits) built and used by St'at'imc ancestors. Some of these dated back to at least 2,300 years ago. The gazebo harkens back to this heritage. It's part of a larger project to increase awareness and revitalization of St'at'imc culture for residents and visitors alike. Congratulations Tsal'alh! •

# SN has a new look!

With this newsletter, we're sharing a sneak peek into our new branding, which will be rolling out in the new year.

Don't worry - we're still the same SN - just with a refresh!

We're also asking our readers to **complete a survey** and let us know what you want to see from our newsletter and social media in 2022!

Participants will be entered to win a **SN swag package**. Complete the survey in the text above for a chance to win!

## Inspired? Check out these upcoming funding opportunities!

**JANUARY 12, 2022**

Women's Economic Recovery  
Challenge Grant Program -  
Government of Alberta

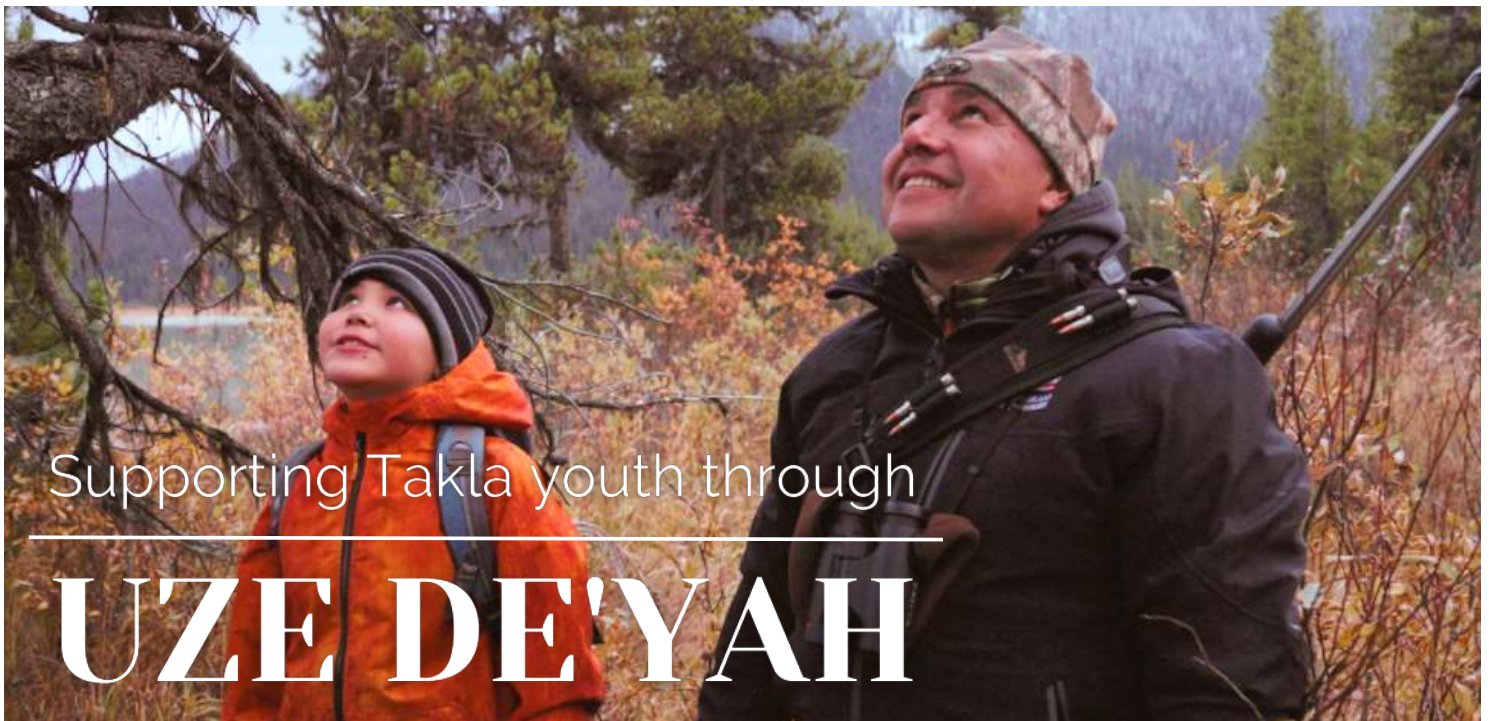
**FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

Braided Knowledge - First  
Peoples' Cultural Council

**ONGOING**

Indigenous Shelter and  
Transitional Housing  
Initiative - CMHC





Supporting Takla youth through

# UZE DE'YAH

***"Our youth represent our community's future and through this program, we will be able to provide them with a cultural education."* - Takla Nation Chief John Allen French**

## **BY ANNA BARLEY, CEO, STRATEGIES NORTH**

There are many projects that Strategies North (SN) has been involved in over the last year. As 2021 comes to a close, we are highlighting one project that our team is extremely proud of: Takla Nation's Uze De'yah (Uncle's Journey) Program. The inception of the project started almost 4 years ago with a vision created by Chief John French and current Program Manager Allan Teschuk for their youth to reconnect to the land, traditional practices and cultural teachings through land-based learning. Chief French and Allan came to SN seeking support to find funding. Now, flash forward to today and our team has helped Takla Nation secure 5 years of funding for the pilot program. Additionally, the SN Education team is supporting the program delivery with the first cohort of youth currently underway.

The program intends to connect Takla students with Indigenous ways of knowing by providing experiences on the land, connecting to their classroom experience, and culminating with their rites of passage ceremonies. Uze De'yah will allow participants to meet key curricular objectives with support from their community knowledge holders, educators, and families. The concept of "it takes a village to raise a child" is a very literal translation in this program. The objective of the program is to create a space whereby youth at risk have an alternative opportunity to learn traditional culturally-based practices that support healthy lifestyle choices and decision making, as well as increase positive peer connections to support them on their life path.

The first land based session with the first cohort of youth occurred this fall and we are excited to share images from that time on the land showcasing some amazing activities that took place. SN continues to be very involved in this exceptional project and we are excited to watch and participate in the positive growth that we are already seeing on this journey with these amazing youth. Stay tuned for further updates. •





*"We are all beautiful and shine like copper. At times our environment can tarnish us. We have the power to polish and radiate our true beauty... With this in mind we become an authority of our environment and choose to shine. **We choose to heal.**" - Allen Teschuk, Uze De'yah Program Manager*





# Welcome to the SN team!



## Emily Huntinghawk, Community Analyst

Emily is a proud member of the Rolling River First Nation, located on Treaty Two and Four territory in Manitoba. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Human Resource Management from the University of Regina and also holds a Certificate in Indigenous Economic Development from the First Nations University of Canada. Emily is passionate about economic, cultural and social development and collective action that promotes diversity and inclusion.



## Katerina Cookson, Community Analyst

Katerina graduated from Simon Fraser University's School of Communications and has a professional background in marketing and public engagement. She is passionate about storytelling and excited by the chance to learn about diverse community projects, particularly those to do with food security, the environment, and the clean energy transition. After work, Kat enjoys practicing the banjo, making kombucha, and trying different cafes in her neighbourhood.

# Happy Holidays!

Please note that the Strategies North office will be closed from December 24th to January 2nd. We'll be taking some much-needed rest and time with our loved ones and hope that you will be doing the same. For urgent matters during this time, please contact Anna at 250-793-7648 or [anna@strategiesnorth.ca](mailto:anna@strategiesnorth.ca).