



CRISIS RESPONSE—UPHOLDING LOCAL RESPONSES TO TRAGIC EVENTS

Our community suffered many tragedies over the summer and we had resources outside the community help by easing the way for people to do what they wish to do, and feel they must do, based on their own teachings and traditions.

We have learnt that people respond to grief and fear in many ways. Some have conversations with family or friends at the kitchen table, over tea. Others sit silently together sewing or play a game of bingo or someone will organize a drum-circle or a candle light vigil for the departed. Others may find their peace and serenity in prayer. The ultimate refuge for many of our Kaska people is the land.

These responses are based in part on experience from other tragedies. Our people know a great deal about tragedy, including mass violence by the state, and have developed many culturally based responses to create safety and solidarity, express grief, uphold dignity, pursue justice, and move forward together.

Professionals from inside and outside the community have special roles to play. But it is important that professionals acknowledge the many capacities that already exist and are the real foundation of recovery and solidarity. The role of professionals is not to teach and take charge: It is to walk behind and beside community members as they respond on the basis of their own culture and experience.

Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, is organizing a training for anyone interested in understanding how to engage in dignified conversations, as we walk with those that have endured tragic events. In this gathering, we will explore what participants already know about helping others discover what they already know.

Facilitator: Dr. Allan Wade

Date: October 12th and 13th

Time: 9 am

Location: 2 Mile Hall



TRADITIONAL HEALING

We are pleased to invite Ralph King to work with our community to heal emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. Ralph comes to us highly recommended by Dr. Gordon Smith whom many of you have seen over the summer.

Ralph works with the mental, spiritual, physical and emotional aspects of a person.

The Four Sacred Medicines from Mother Earth.

Tobacco is used as an offering to mother earth and the grandfathers. It promotes strength and courage which flows from the East.

Sweet Grass is used as a healing offering to Mother Earth and the grandfathers. It promotes strength which represents Body, Mind and Spirit. It provides healing and kindness which flows from the North.

Cedar is used to promote Honesty and it flows from the south.

Sage is used to get rid of negativity feelings. It produces the gift of Sharing which is from the West. The medicines together make up the Four Sacred Medicines and are used in ceremonies to purify.

If you are interested in seeing Ralph King please call our office at 867 536 2097.

When: October 18, 19, 20th

Where: 127 Nisutlin Drive



TRADITIONAL SEWING—PACKSACKS OR GUN CASE

Everyone is invited to attend this workshop. We only ask that you stay and sew and not cut material to take home. The intent of the workshop is for us to gather as this is our culture.

When: October 14th, 15th and 16th

Where: 2 mile Hall

Time: 9 am to 3 pm

KASKA LANGUAGE CLASSES

We are pleased to announce that Leda Jules will be offering Kaska language classes. With funding from Canadian Heritage we are working to continue with ensuring our language is not lost. Through this small project there will be language lessons, continue with building the Kaska dictionary and recording Elders.

We wish to acknowledge Pat Moore, Leda Jules, Linda McDonald, Elder Mida, Martina Volfova and the many Elders who are working to keep our language alive.

“We are Kaska Dena and it is our language and our land that gives us our identity and our distinction, without either we would be like mainstream Canadians.”

When: October 18th and October 20th

Time: 12 to 1:30 pm

Where: 2 mile hall

When: November 1st and November 3rd

Time: 12 – 1:30 pm

Where: 2 mile hall

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM—WLSS

We would like to acknowledge and thank Linda McDonald for doing a great job delivering the Residential School curriculum to the students of WLSS in the 2015/2016 school year. In addition, we thank, George Jackson, Rose Ceasar, Agnes Chief, Julia Dickson and Ann Szabo for providing cultural support. We look forward to working with WLSS again this year on the delivery of the Residential School curriculum.

YOUTH FOR CULTURE—JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In partnership with teachers at the JES and community agencies we are excited to be launching a Youth for Culture project in the JES for the grades 6 and 7th.

Our facilitators will deliver two day workshop once a month during this school year. These interactive workshops will have focus on basic peer youth support, basic communications, Kaska traditions, basic life skills, dignity, compassion and most important having fun.

YOUTH FOR SAFTY/JUSTICE WATSON LAKE SECONDARY SCHOOL

In partnership with community agencies we will be embarking on the second year of Youth for Safety/Justice at the WLSS with an orientation on October 25th and 26th.

The program will be accessible in all respects to youth in grades 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

The broad goal is to engage youth in developing the skills and awareness needed to develop a safe and socially just working group and, ultimately, a safer community for children and youth and all residents.

Participating youth will learn:

- group management and process skills to create safety in small groups;
- the dynamics of violence and resistance from sexualized violence to structural violence (e.g., the connection between sexual assault, racism, poverty, gender, sexuality, geography);
- how to raise the subject of sexualized violence with peers of different ages;
- how to approach key adults to engage as “consultants” and allies;
- how to develop original materials as part of individual and collective initiatives to promote safety and justice in the school and community;

The youth that participated in Year one have found the program interesting, unique, engaging, challenging, supportive and educational. Every effort will be made to acknowledge not only the youth involved but those who support their involvement, from family members to friends and teachers.

HONIORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR YOUTH—TRADITIONAL REGALIA

We are pleased to report that we will be proudly sewing the regalia this year for our grades 7 and grade 12 students that will be graduating. This project serves to help instill our pride in our youth; build an incentive for youth to graduate, connects youth with grand-mothers and community women; brings joy to grand-mothers as they sew for our youth; connects youth with elders, bridges cultural gaps; sharing stories and laughter with each other. We plan to have another community celebration to honor our youth at the end of the school year.

We would once again like to congratulate all the youth that graduated last year and thank the elders and family members that sewed their beautiful regalia.

