



Liard Aboriginal Women's Society-Box 3 Watson Lake, Yukon Y0A 1C0

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Fall Equinox Celebration

As the midday sun begins to sink lower and nights get noticeably longer, it can only mean the reign of summer is coming to an end for the northern half of the world.

The autumn equinox arrives at 10:21 a.m. ET (2:20 p.m. UTC) on September 22, officially marking the beginning of fall in the Northern Hemisphere and the start of spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

The word "equinox" comes from Latin and means "equal night," referring to the roughly 12-hour day and night that occurs only on the two equinox days of the year.

Together let us join and celebrate our culture and give thanks for the abundance of life's nourishing gifts from Mother Earth.

Liard Aboriginal Women's Society in partnership with Liard First Nations and Gandhada Management is pleased to offer the following events: Conversations in Kaska with Fluent Speakers; Hand-games Tournament, sharing food; sweats; great food, hospitality and fun. Due to scheduling we will be celebrating the Fall Equinox a week late.

Conversations in Kaska Language

When: September 28th to 29th –

Time: 10 – 4 pm

Hand Games Tournament

When: September 30th and October 1st – Entry fee - \$100/person

Time: 10 am daily

Location to be determined depending on weather conditions!



COMING SOON: Indigenous Land Protection Forum:

October or November/2017

The Liard Aboriginal Women's Society in partnership with Liard First Nations, Yukoners Concerned About Oil/Gas and the Yukon Conservation Society plan to host a forum to explore the controversial practice of fracturing the land to extract natural gas.

We have inherited an abundant Territory as a gift of stewardship from our ancestors, a gift that resides in our hearts and minds as Indigenous people. Our land is a living legacy, a place of rare, pristine beauty. Being the children of our ancestors, we are entrusted with its care, ensuring that it will live on – well -- for the children that follow us.

But now in our time, we are faced with difficult and divisive choices about the life of the land, about what we have inherited, and about the future we will pass on to our children. The choices are all about how we understand the land, how we use it, and the way in which we use it. In conventional terms, the difficult and divisive choices have to do with 'extraction' – the 'taking' of minerals, oil and gas from the land.

The forum does not stand in opposition to 'taking' from the land even though traditions hold that something must always be given back in return. The forum is about the 'way' we take. It is about the use of fracking to extract – to take – natural gas.

Fracking is a controversial technique used to extract natural gas trapped in layers of shale rock deep in the earth's crust. The gas is forced out of the shale rock by the pressure created in pumping a slurry of water, sand and chemicals into wells deep underground. It is this 'way' that is the source of controversy, and given that the south-east Yukon is known for its large deposit of shale gas, fracking will take center-stage in the Indigenous Land Protection Forum.

****We will ensure that this event is advertised on the radio and posters. When: Date to be Determined (October or November)**



Liard Aboriginal Women's Society AGM

The Liard Aboriginal Women's Society is pleased to announce the Annual General Assembly.

When: October 14th 2017

Time: 10am

Where: Wye Lake Cabin with Lunch Served



Youth for Safety – Wins an Award

We wish to extend our congratulations to the participants of the Youth for Safety project for recently Winning the IAP2 Canada Core Values Award for Indigenous Engagement.

Youth at the WLSS have been taking part in the Youth for Safety project, a three-year Youth empowerment project, initiated by the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS). This program was developed in collaboration with Watson Lake community organizations committed to improving community safety. The project is intended to increase safety of Youth and community members in Watson Lake by helping male and female Youth learn ways of supporting those who experience violence, while also learning new skills to increase community safety. In the first year of the program, Youth worked on a number of campaigns aimed at raising awareness on the issue of sexualized violence.

The Youth will be kicking off the third year of the project in October. This program is a self-selected with Campaigns designed by the Youth.



Youth for Safety Honored at Awards Ceremony in Denver Colorado—September 2017

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2 Canada) presented the **Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS)** with its **2017 Core Values Award for Indigenous Engagement** at the annual IAP2 North American Conference in Denver for "Youth for Safety".

Two members of "Youth for Safety" made the trip to Denver to accept the award, along with the team lead from LAWS and a consultant from North Vancouver-based Beringia Community Planning. "Youth for Safety" is a bottom-up initiative, developed in collaboration with Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.

"It's important to recognize what can happen when decision-makers listen to and work with the people affected by a decision," says IAP2 Canada President Bruce Gilbert. "The Core Values Awards celebrate those projects and also hold them up as an example for others to follow."

Congratulations to the Youth who have participated in the Youth for Safety project for receiving the Core Values Award.

We look forward to continuing to work with all of you with Year 3 of the project beginning in October 2017.

