

# Liard First Nation Newsletter

February 2023

[www.liardfirstnation.ca](http://www.liardfirstnation.ca)

Facebook: Liard First Nation  
Instagram: @liardfirstnation  
Twitter: @Liard\_FN



## Jānī gūts'ih gūtīe dēhdél!

Go forward in a good way!

We hope you have had a wonderful start to the year. The land looks so beautiful covered in snow. We love our community and are very excited to move forward together in 2023. This Newsletter highlights many of the ongoing projects and activities happening within the Health & Social and Capital & Infrastructure Departments.

There are always events in the community where you can get connected. We invite you to stay updated through this newsletter and through our social media accounts displayed at the top of this page. At the end of this newsletter, you will also find a calendar that highlights events going on this month - We would love to see you there!



Photo: Jasmine Lewis

## This issue:

Health & Social  
Department  
PAGE 02-04

Capital & Infrastructure  
Department  
PAGE 05-13

February Calendar  
PAGE 14-15

New Phone Numbers  
PAGE 16



### *What's happening in the Health & Social Department!*

Here are some of our highlights from the last few months at H&S.



### New Bingo Machine

Margaret Charlie and our Health & Social team are so pleased with our new Bingo machine! We love coming together with the community to play Bingo and spend time together. Come try it out!

### Elder Gathering



We love looking back at special moments we have shared together as a community. These photos are from last spring, when Rose Caesar gathered community Elders by the sacred fire. We are already looking forward to this spring and more outdoor gatherings together. Until then, we continue to organize different indoor events, such as the Elder tea coming up on February 16th – see more details on page 4.



Join us!

## Outlook Training with Yukon University

**Mondays & Wednesdays**  
**9:00-11:30am**



Do you want to learn or improve your Microsoft Outlook skills? Register for this 3-week course at Yukon University, starting on Wednesday, 25th January for 3 weeks.

**The course is FREE for LFN members, but spaces are limited!**

If you are interested, contact Katherine Durocher at 536-5206 and leave a message or email [events@liardfirstnation.ca](mailto:events@liardfirstnation.ca)

## Drumming Workshop

Do you want to learn how to drum?  
We invite you to join us for our weekly drumming workshop!

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**7-9pm**

**Tuesdays @ Two Mile Hall**  
**Thursdays @ Upper Liard Learning Centre**



**Everyone is welcome!**

## Lunch & Learn

Our Lunch & Learn events are still going on every Tuesday and Thursday from 12-2pm. Tuesdays we meet at Two Mile Hall, and on Thursdays at Upper Liard Learning Centre.

Lunch is served at 12 and the presentation starts at 1pm. Please let us know if you need a ride there!

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**12-2pm**

**Tuesdays @ Two Mile Hall**  
**Thursdays @ Upper Liard Learning Centre**



Please note that: **A Public Health Nurse will be joining our Lunch & Learn sessions on Thursdays**, starting January 19th. The nurse will be offering the following:

- Immunizations
- STI information
- Well child/ Prenatal information

**Thursdays 12-2pm @**  
**Upper Liard Learning Centre**




**Welcome!**



### Upcoming Youth Engagement

There is an upcoming Youth Engagement on the week of February 13th. Keep an eye out for opportunities to participate in this research analyzing the impacts of Covid-19 on youth mental health. *More details to come!*



### Ongoing Internet Survey

There is an ongoing survey about internet access for the Covid research led by LFN youth. This is a door to door survey, and we invite all community members to participate as it will help us better understand mental health in the community. The door to door survey started last weekend and will go on until mid February.

Thank you for supporting our youth!



### Elder Gathering

As part of this Covid research project, there will also be an Elder Gathering on February 16th at 9am to chat about health and youth. The meeting will be at the Curling Lounge Room at the Recreation Centre. Coffee, tea and breakfast snacks will be provided, and Honoraria will be available!

Contact Us – *We are here for you!*



Health & Social Department Office – 867-536-5206  
24/7 Health and Social Support – 867-536-4527



## Building our Community

Our department wishes to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our team and LFN staff members. We give thanks to your contributions and commitment helping your Nation improve housing, infrastructure, and service delivery. Together we are building our community and working to address our housing and infrastructure needs. We recognize there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done for our Members and Nation.

The Capital and Infrastructure department continues to restructure and build capacity for the Nation and our Members. There are currently 9 employment opportunities in the Capital Department: 1 Capital Director position, 1 Project Manager position, 4 labourer positions, 2 janitorial positions, and 1 two-mile laundry attendant position available. Visit the [LFN Opportunities Page](#) for more information. The Capital Department supports all staff team members through training, certification, and education development. Job opportunities in the department can turn into trades opportunities with career development.

We strongly encourage all LFN members to apply to the Department's job opportunities or come in to speak with us about upcoming opportunities. Regularly check the local job boards, community boards and LFN's website for employment opportunities.



"Together we are  
building our  
community and  
working to address  
our housing and  
infrastructure  
needs."





## News



### Water for All!

The LFN Capital and Infrastructure department would like to acknowledge the hard work of LFN's Water Treatment Plant Operators providing our Members with clean and safe drinking water.

Are you thirsty? Not a problem, our Operators just received delivery of their new bulk water truck! Thank you Operators for your hard work and dedication to our Nation and our Members.

### New Garbage Truck

A new garbage truck was approved for LFN due to the constant repairs required on our current garbage truck. The new international chassis 4x4 garbage truck is being built. It will have an M1800 compactor box with quick drop capability. What does this mean? We can drop the garbage compactor box attachment and switch it for a flatbed attachment and use the garbage truck for hauling like a dump truck. The Garbage truck includes a pressure washer for cleaning playground equipment, buildings and will come with a snowplow blade for winter snow clearing in the villages. Along with the Garbage truck, a Recycling Ranger trailer was also approved.

This trailer is designed for sorting and unloading recyclables collected from LFN's Band Housing or can be dropped for large community events to reduce garbage waste. Once received, LFN Capital and Infrastructure will initiate a door-to-door recycling program for our Nation's homes to reduce waste and assist with keeping our communities clean.





### *We love to hear from you*

If you are a member of Liard First Nation, we want to hear from YOU! We are currently conducting a Housing survey in order to better understand our community's housing needs, the resources available and the services that are still needed.

We have taken your feedback from the last Community Engagement and already put several projects into motion. Read on for more specific updates on our current projects. Below are some photos from our new community playground. It is so important for the children to have a safe and fun space to play!



### Housing Survey

Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated and will be valuable for improving our community. Also, by completing this survey you have the chance to **win a \$100 gift certificate** to a local supplier of your choice!

Please type in the link below to take the survey. Sógā sinlā!

**<https://liardfirstnation.civilspace.io/en/projects/2/engagements/3/sections/1>**



### *Ongoing Projects*

Read about some of the exciting ongoing projects at our department!

### Two Mile Lake Revitalization

During our Housing Strategy engagements, we continuously heard from the membership on the importance of revitalizing the 2-mile lake area. The Capital and Infrastructure Department has partnered with LFN's Denekah Justice Department to work on revitalizing the 2-mile lake area.

The Justice Department sourced funding which allowed the Capital Department to move the emergency cabins from the 2 ½ mile village area to the lake. The roads, camp sites and boat launch were brushed, graded, and packed to increase ease of access. 43 tent and trailer camp sites were opened and developed. Four water tanks with stands were installed to accommodate increased use of the area to deliver potable drinking water for programming. A dock and swimming platform were constructed and will be launched in the spring at the boat launch area. The emergency cabins were repaired replacing the old wood stoves with new welded cabin stoves and chimneys.



The old kitchen trailer was removed, a new quiet generator was purchased for programming use. 2 wood stoves were added to the gathering hall, the hall windows had shutters added and steel mesh with entrance doors to protect elders and members from adverse weather during events and programming. In addition to the meat smoking hut, new fish smoking huts were constructed next to the lake. Two lake side fire rings with grills were installed next to the large lake for day use and gatherings. The Departments are committed to improving this area each year and we look forward to future gatherings and program delivery for the members at 2-mile lake!

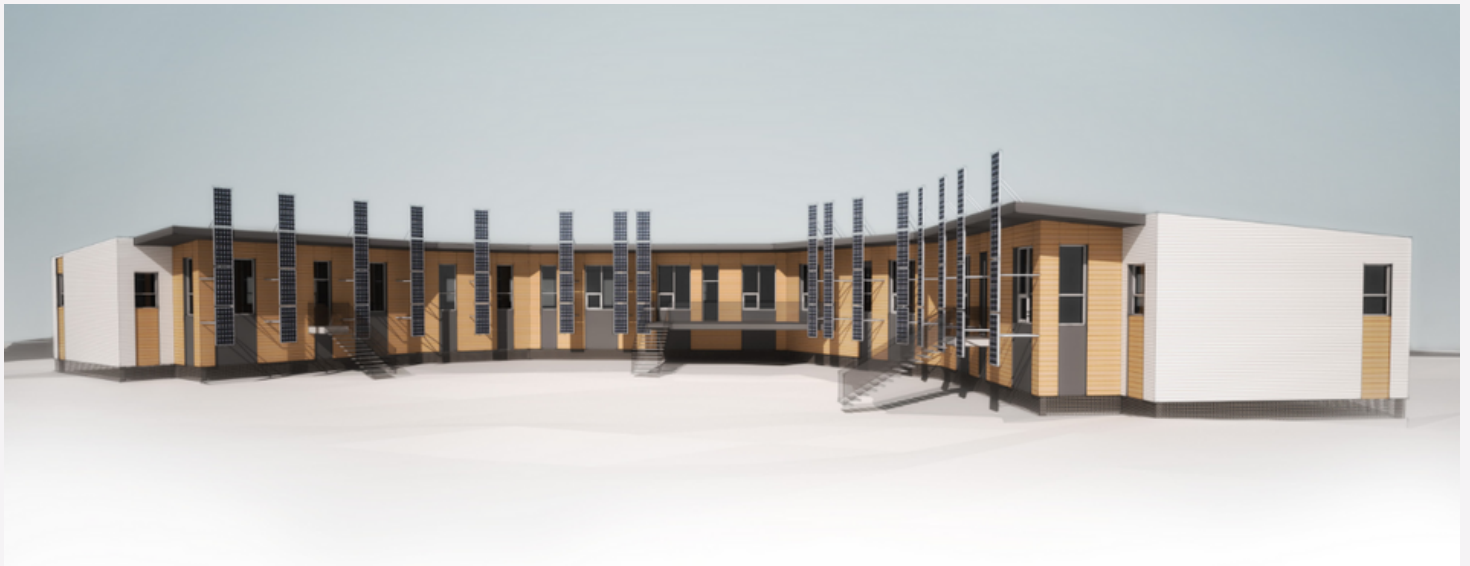


## Elder's Complex

After difficulties with inflation and rising project costs, we are excited to announce that we have confirmed funding and the contract has been awarded for the LFN Elder's Complex! The project will be located in Two and a Half Mile village. This 9 unit residential development will provide safe, affordable living to our Elders in our community. This building will allow Elders who need additional supports and assistance to age in place and is communally structured in a supportive environment that maintains individual privacy.



Construction will begin Spring of 2023 with estimated completion Spring 2024. Look for upcoming media announcements and releases on this project. The Capital Department will be hosting job fairs in the new year for employment opportunities for LFN's members on Major Capital Projects like the Elder's Complex.



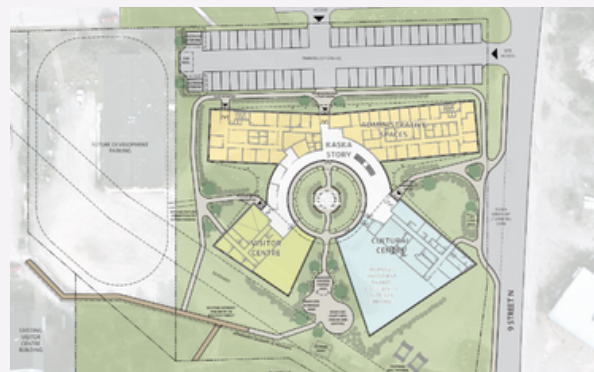


## Developing Projects

Read our updates on Developing projects and “What We Heard” from the LFN Housing Strategy.

### LFN Cultural Centre

The LFN Capital & Infrastructure department continues to work on the Nations Cultural Centre project development. Based on the surveys completed during the Cultural Centre community consultation at our Housing Strategy Engagements and four consultation engagements over the last 2 years. The “Gathering Circle” concept design was the most popular design and received the majority votes by participating members. We had 80 members complete and fill out the design surveys over 2 months. 51 Members were in favor of the “Gathering Circle” design, 19 Members in favor of the “Liard River Camp” design, and 10 Members in favor of the “Caribou Antler” building design. We would like to give thanks to all the participating Members in picking your Nation's Cultural Centre design.



This building is designed to centralize LFN's government departments and foster positive relationships for our Members through service delivery and highlight our Kaska heritage in our Traditional Territory. As the future hub of the community, the Cultural Centre will help tell the Kaska story and share our culture with visitors.

*The Membership may be wondering, what next steps for the Cultural Center project development?*

The Capital Department continues to submit funding proposals to complete the Architectural and Mechanical blueprints for the chosen concept design. Included in the funding proposal submissions is a request to complete the proposed site land surveys, environmental assessments, development permits and other regulatory requirements to make this conceptual design “Shovels Ready”. We continue to apply to all funding sources as they become available, having a completed shovels ready design will increase funding opportunities for this project and increases our chances of success with funding partners completing project funding reviews.





### Safe Family & Youth Support Centre

The Capital and Infrastructure Department continues to support and work with all of LFN's departments to develop and construct infrastructure needed for program delivery to our Members. Additional support programs for Families and Youth are a high priority for LFN and was identified from the Membership in "What we Heard" from our Nation's Housing Strategy engagements.

Partnering with LFN Denekah Justice and LFN Health & Social, the Department is currently developing a new infrastructure project aimed towards supporting our community's Family and Youth. The Safe Family & Youth Support Centre will house new culturally relevant Justice family services programs where Indigenous children of Watson Lake YT, Lower Post, BC and surrounding areas will have access to a safe supportive environment, localized health and nutritional support, and recreational activities, mental health services, and much-needed space to socialize and just "be kids".

We are excited about the prospect of a new space where all our families and youth feel welcome, seen heard and supported in their development. Engagements for community consultation with the membership on the buildings functional space design, location, and services will be announced soon, please regularly visit LFN's webpage and Facebook page for updates or look for announcements posted on LFN's community boards.



### Garden Project

Food security and inflation's impact on the affordability of groceries continues to come up in community discussions. Community gardens and Greenhouses was identified from the Membership in "What we Heard" from our Nation's Housing Strategy engagements. The Capital Department has submitted for funding to build community gardens and greenhouses in Upper Liard and in 2 Mile village. Community Gardens and Greenhouses help Members with food insecurity while giving a healthy and holistic avenue for members to learn skills in horticulture and gardening. We will continue to listen to the membership's feedback on community needs and infrastructure. Look out for project updates and development on LFN's website and Facebook page.



## Graveyard Project and Upper Liard Church

The Capital and Infrastructure Department continues to support and work with all of LFN's departments to develop and construct infrastructure needed for program delivery to our Members. Preservation and improvement of the Upper Liard Graveyard and Church was identified from the Membership in "What we Heard" from our Nation's Housing Strategy engagements. LFN's Language Department partnered with Capital and Infrastructure for a submission to the Yukon Community Development Fund. The Departments were successful in our funding submission and will complete the Upper Liard Graveyard revitalization in the Spring/Summer of 2023.



Upper Liard Church is owned by the regional archdiocese, the Capital Department has contacted the archdiocese (church bishop) in Whitehorse regarding the state of the Church in Upper Liard. To the departments' knowledge the Church suffered snow damage last winter and no longer has power, and needs repairs. We have initiated discussions to see if the archdiocese would allow LFN to assume the building and property ownership as part of our Nation's assets which would make sourcing funding to repair and preserve the church simpler. If that is not possible we are open to partnering with the archdiocese to complete needed repairs and to initiate this discussion on behalf of the Membership.



We continue to work on projects based on feedback and direction the Department has received from the Membership. We will continue to update Members as information becomes available.

### ***Did you miss our publication on the Housing Engagement Strategy Update?***

If you want to read more about what we heard during our Community Engagement, we invite you to read it on the [LFN website](#).



### HOUSING PROGRAM TENANT HANDBOOK



#### ***Do you have your Tenant Handbook?***

We have delivered our new Tenant Handbook to members around the community. If you have not received a copy, you can pick it up at the admin office.

**Contact Us – *We are here for you!***

Capital & Infrastructure Office – 867-536-2401  
24/7 Housing Support – 867-749-0088





# FEBRUARY 2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			1	2 Lunch & Learn Drumming Upper Liard	3	4
5	6	7 Lunch & Learn Drumming Two Mile Hall	8	9 Lunch & Learn Drumming Upper Liard	10	11
12	13	14 Lunch & Learn Drumming Two Mile Hall Valentine's Day	15 Pre Natal Nutrition	16 Lunch & Learn Drumming Upper Liard Elder Gathering	17	18
19	20	21 Lunch & Learn Drumming Two Mile Hall	22	23 Lunch & Learn Drumming Upper Liard	24	25
26	27	28 Lunch & Learn Drumming Two Mile Hall				

## Need a ride?

Do you want to come to one of our events but are unable to get there? Please contact us at the reception ahead of time so we can arrange to pick you up.

Details on next page



# This Month:

## Lunch & Learn:

All LFN members are welcome to our Lunch & Learn events on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-2pm**. The location alternates between **Two Mile Hall and Upper Liard Learning Centre**. A healthy lunch is served, followed by a presentation from public and mental health. Let us know ahead of time if you need one of our staff members to pick you up.

## Drumming Workshop:

Whether you want to learn how to drum, or just practice with good company, we invite you to our weekly drumming workshop. We meet on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9pm**. The location alternates between **Two Mile Hall and Upper Liard Learning Centre**. Everyone is welcome.

## Pre Natal Nutrition:

All soon-to-be and new mothers are welcome to join us on the **15th of every month** for a class in Pre Natal Nutrition to keep you and your little one healthy. Contact the Health & Social Department for details.

## Elder Gathering:

There will be an Elder Gathering on **February 16th at 9am** to chat about health and youth. The meeting will be at the **Curling Lounge Room at the Recreation Centre**. Coffee, tea and breakfast snacks will be provided, and Honoraria will be available!

\*Please note that all events are subject to changes whenever necessary. The most updated details on each event can be found on our social media platforms.



LFN has changed their phone numbers:

## New direct dial numbers for Departments

### **Justice Department:**

867-536-7925

### **Income Assistance:**

867-536-5207

### **Health & Social Department:**

867-536-5206

### **Capital/Housing Department:**

867-536-2401

## LFN After Hours Emergency Numbers:

### **Health & Social Department:**

867-536-4527

### **Capital/Housing Department:**

867-749-0088

Weekdays 4:30-8:30am and weekends.

*Sōgā sinlā!*