

# NÁÁTS'JHCH'OH UPDATE

January/February 2020

## Superintendent's Message

By Nadine Gauvin



I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone for welcoming me in the beautiful Hamlet of Tulita. The breathtaking views, friendly people and fun community activities have made my transition here very easy. Mahsi cho!

With winter now in full swing and 2020 just started, we have been busy planning for the upcoming summer season; wrapping up older projects; conducting interviews for term positions and continuously working on securing land for the Visitor Centre/office build. Our Interpretation Supervisor, Katelyn Clark, is leaving Parks Canada as she will be returning to Alberta, with her dog Jax, to finish her studies. We wish her well in her new adventures!

The Parks Canada team is also working with Government of Canada officials to ensure the traditional place names of Nááts'jch'oh National Park Reserve are recognized and included on all maps. We have also recently met with the Visitor Safety and Law Enforcement experts of Parks Canada to ensure all staff, community members and visitors remain safe while visiting the park and to determine how to improve the protection of wildlife.

I welcome anyone to drop in the office at any time or give me a call at 588-4884, to learn more of our current and planned activities. In closing, I wish our partners, stakeholders and the people of Tulita and the Sahtu region a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

## Nááts'jch'oh on the Road: Norman Wells School and Community Presentations



Tulita Ice Crossing on route to Norman Wells,  
January 9, 2020.

With the grand opening of the Tulita Mackenzie Ice Crossing came the long-anticipated opportunity to drive the trusty Parks Canada Silverado up the winter road, and bring some outreach programming to Norman Wells. Students at Mackenzie Mountain School learned about all the different jobs in Nááts'ihch'oh, and even got to meet Parks Canada Warden Laurent Nickolaiczuk, who had driven up from Fort Simpson. The students later had the chance to pour over park management plans and design a brand new “park” based on their values and new understandings. [See the next page](#) for more information about summer jobs and training positions with Nááts'ihch'oh.



Laurent Nicolaiczuk (Warden) and Johanna Robson (Resource Conservation Supervisor) speak to students at MMS about what its like to work for Parks Canada.

Katelyn was also able to connect with some Norman Wells residents while she was set up over a lunch hour at the Norman Wells Historical Society. She and Peggy Lee Chubb welcomed folks in with hot chocolate and coffee, and sent everyone home with more information about what makes Nááts'ihch'oh a special place, the rivers, and summer operations in the park.



A “Nááts'ihch'oh coffee break” was held at the Norman Wells museum over lunch hour on Friday, January 10.

The highlight of the trip was certainly the evening presentation at Sahtú Dene Nechá Ko' Long Term Care Facility. Elders, care providers, and a few community members gathered for a slideshow and movie about the animals, plants, visitors, and beautiful sights of Nááts'ihch'oh from the past few years. Many of the elders were able to pick out familiar faces and family members in the photos. Maurice Mendo, who was influential in the establishment of the park and who has shared his knowledge and stories of the area with Parks Canada, spotted himself in a photo halfway up a mountain!

“The environment must be protected. Places like Nááts'ihch'oh make our land strong.”

—Maurice Mendo

It was a gift to be able to share these photos with the elders, and the team at Nááts'ihch'oh looks forward to returning soon and spending more time with them.



Nolan Mendo with his grandfather, Maurice Mendo. Nolan is a summer student with Parks Canada. Like his grandfather, he loves living and working in the mountains.

## Summer Jobs and Mentorship Opportunities with Parks Canada: Apply today!

Summer job applications are now available for pick up at the Parks Canada Office in Tulita. Applications may also be sent out by fax, email, or mail. The terms typically run from May-September, depending on the applicant's availability. There are positions in environmental monitoring, community education and outreach, and visitor experience. In previous years, staff have noted that the most valuable aspects of a job with Nááts'ihch'oh are getting to spend so much time out on the land

in the mountains, and sharing Sahtu culture and stories with visitors from all over the world. These positions are also available for students 17 years of age or older. Students may inquire with their school and Parks Canada about school credits for working on the land.

Under the Nááts'ihch'oh Impacts and Benefits Plan, Tulita District Land Corporation members who are interested in pursuing a career with Parks Canada are encouraged to talk with Nadine Gauvin as there are long-term training positions open to the right candidates for mentorship in park management and supervisory roles. For more information about these positions or summer employment, call the office at 867-588-4884.



Summer staff (Johanna Robson, Lacey Wrigley, and Sheena Parsons) take a break on their way up "Fossil Ridge" above Qtaa Tu Fehto.

A typical day in the life of a summer staff member may begin by loading a Twin Otter at Plane Lake and taking off into the mountains for a week of field work. Field work can be anything from collecting water samples, replacing batteries in wildlife cameras, or guiding a group of river paddlers on a hike, and teaching them how to make an offering to the

land or water. Some staff stay in Tulita, and might spend their time with the day camp, building time machines, teaching canoe lessons, or making crafts! Between running the office, special events, field trips to Norman Wells and creating Facebook posts to share the team's summer adventures with the public, there is rarely a dull moment. Apply now! Applications close on February 21, 2020.

## Upcoming Management Committee Meeting

The next Management Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 in Norman Wells. Any interested community members are welcome to attend. A public announcement of the meeting will be released closer to that date. Currently, the Committee consists of:

Chair: Leon Andrew (TRRC-TLC)

Rhea McDonald (NWRRC-NWLC)

Lisa McDonald (TRRC-NWRRC joint)

Douglas Yallee (TLC-TRRC)

Rocky Norwegian (TRRC-FNM)

Keyna Norwegian (Ministerial-Dehcho)

Jess Fortner (Ministerial-NWT)

Cam Zimmer (Ministerial)

Nathan Cardinal (Ministerial)

Alternates: Jasmine Plummer (NWRRC-NWLC), Mike Etchinelle (TRRC-TLC), Angus Lennie (TRRC-FNM), Vacant (Ministerial-Dehcho)

## Contact Us

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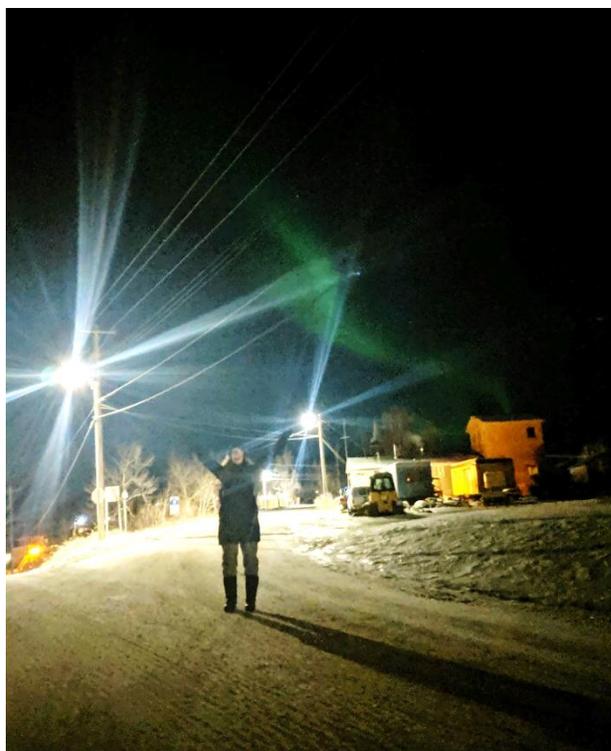
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[www.parkscanada.gc.ca/naatsihcboh](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/naatsihcboh)



A full moon over the east end of Bear Rock, January 2020.



Parks Canada staff enjoy the northern lights on their morning commute to the office.