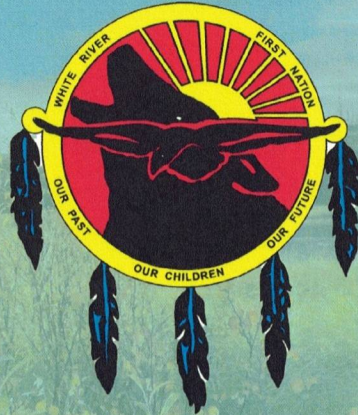


White River First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan

2024 - 2050





White River First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan

2024 - 2050



This Comprehensive Community Plan is written for the White River First Nation. It was adopted in August 2024 after an engagement period from March 2023 to July 2024.

Technical planning support was provided by Sanala Planning Inc.

Drawings in the design of this plan were drawn by community members at community engagements. The raven banner motif was created by Nelnah Bessie John School students.

This work was developed, facilitated, and written with deep reverence and respect for the White River First Nations peoples' past, present, and future, and the territories they have taken care of since time immemorial. Thank you, Tsin'jj, Mesę'!

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Appendix A: January 2024 Progress Report
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Welcome

*Nohts'eneh'ijj tsin'ijj choh ts'eninthän
Dàyeḡ yésóots'enindhän, dàkhwäts'enè'in yū*



The White River First Nation (WRFN) is proud to share our first-ever Comprehensive Community Plan. Created after a year of community engagement and based on a love for the land, peoples, and cultures of the Nation, this document serves as a guide towards becoming a thriving First Nation. It is a rich collection of the boundless dreams, goals, and ideas that WRFN Members have for our future generations. It is for everyone to read, whether you are a Member, Councillor, staff member, or an ally keen on understanding where the White River First Nation is headed in the future.

With technical support from Sanala Planning, a Steering Committee of White River First Nation Members guided this process, sharing their knowledge and representing the community's interests.





Photo courtesy of the Planning Team.



About This Plan



This Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) captures the White River First Nation's vision and goals for the next 25 years. The CCP includes goals on governance, economy, lands and resources, health and wellness, infrastructure development, culture, and social connections.

The vision and goals in this Plan are designed to provide a guiding framework for all work led by the Nation, ensuring that everything aligns with the community's vision. Staff workplans, funding applications, relationship development, and economic development plans in addition to a variety of other Nation-building efforts will follow the direction that is laid out in this Comprehensive Community Plan over the course of the next generation. This work is meant to be long term and visionary, while also realistic and attainable.

This CCP was written following community engagement that took place in 2023 and early 2024. Members shared ideas, perspectives, and reflections that shaped this Plan. The CCP ultimately works as a document that expresses the community's desires for progress. It is a



tool to communicate to governments, agencies, organizations and funders as well as to one another where the White River First Nation wants to go in the future. The CCP is a living document, meaning it can be readily updated as needed as we move through these goals.

A CCP can accomplish the following:

- Empower the community by supporting Members to dream about the future;
- Enable community-informed decision-making by leadership
- Build teamwork and expertise by improving communications
- Help coordinate future development by identifying the community's priorities for our lands and resources
- Celebrate our rich and unique culture
- Promote community healing by establishing a positive vision for the future and identifying the steps necessary to achieve that vision
- Identify opportunities for attracting and sustaining meaningful community investment



Comprehensive Community Planning is an Indigenous community-led visionary approach to planning, where the process is driven by community members.

Steering Committee

The development of the Comprehensive Community Plan would not have happened without the hard work of the Steering Committee.

Members were invited to join the committee in Spring 2023 through an online posting. As a result, four women from White River First Nation (Ebony Willow-Broeren, Angel Demit, Roberta Sembsmoen, and Ruth Johnny) responded with interest and officially formed the CCP Steering Committee, appointed by Chief and Council in Spring 2023.

The Steering Committee advised the CCP process through regular emails and monthly meetings. Members provided valuable support by ensuring their friends and family were involved in the CCP by sharing information and gathering feedback from community members. Ebony, Angela, Roberta, and Ruth have been an incredible help in the work of collecting and translating the love of the WRFN community into the words of this Comprehensive Community Plan.

To all of you - Thank you, Tsin'jj, Meseᑭ!

Community Engagement

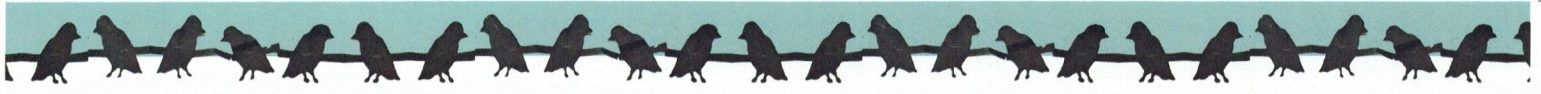
CCP community engagement took place between Spring 2023 and Summer 2024. Guided by the direction of the Steering Committee, Sanala Planning hosted multiple community engagement opportunities to ensure the plan was led by Members' visions and ideas for the community.

In addition to community engagement with Members, the Sanala Planning team collaborated with Member Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé to

incorporate input from her previous community engagement. Sanala planners also met with some Nation staff to learn about their work and how it connects to CCP, spoke with students of Nelnah Bessie John School, met with representatives from Copper Niisüü Limited Partnership, and spoke with the Chief Negotiator for the CCP, in addition to other meetings with White River First Nation leadership.

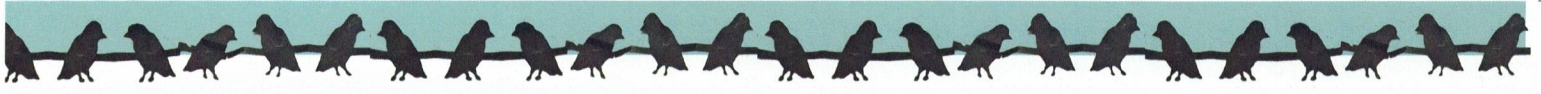
During the engagement period, we accomplished the following:

- 33 newsletters directly mailed to Members
- The maintenance of a Facebook Page to keep members updated online
- 100+ informational flyers left at the Band Office
- 2 virtual community engagements
- 3 community engagements in Beaver Creek
- 2 community engagements in Whitehorse
- ~100 people in attendance at community engagements in total
- 10 Steering Committee meetings hosted
- 15 completed surveys collected



CCP Engagement Timeline

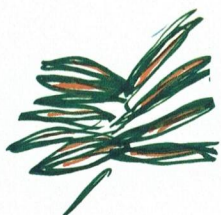




How to Read This Plan

This Plan includes a vision, nine goals, priorities within each goal, and proposed action items suggested by WRFN Members for the Nation to fulfil these priorities and goals over the next 25 years. This work is shared alongside historic information about the Nation and reflections from community engagements. How you engage with this plan may depend on who you are:

Members



This CCP is a celebration of who we are, what we are working toward, and how we might bring the community together. Throughout this document are potential opportunities for you to get involved, by volunteering, engaging in community advocacy, and supporting WRFN leadership and staff to work toward community priorities. This CCP is ours - and future generations are relying on us to keep it alive!

Leadership



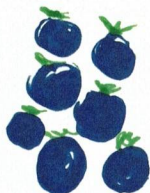
This CCP identifies Members' priorities and vision for the future. This document can be used as a tool for decision-making by providing you with guidance on decisions impacting the livelihood of current and future generations of WRFN Members. It is also a helpful tool for reporting, helping you to communicate with Members about how their vision and goals are being implemented.

Staff



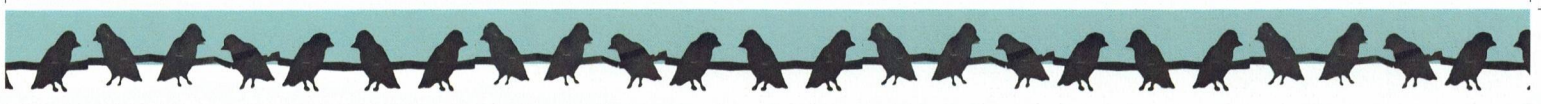
This CCP serves as a valuable tool for strategizing on future program offerings, priority projects, funding opportunities, and more. This document provides information on what Members want to see for their future, which can help to guide your work planning as you strive to provide important services and programming to the WRFN community.

Governments and Partners



This CCP provides insight into White River First Nation's dreams, visions, ideas, and interests for their future. This document can support important conversations at negotiation tables, the development of partnership opportunities, community investment, and relationship building with neighbours and external parties.





WRFN History

White River First Nation is a bilingual and multicultural Nation which was federally recognized in 1991. Prior to that year, Northern Tutchone People from Snag and Upper Tanana People from Scottie Creek, that now make up White River First Nation, experienced wrongful amalgamation and displacement from 1961 to 1989 by the Government of Canada. Our People were amalgamated with Indigenous People from the Kluane area to make up the Kluane Indian Band (subsequently the Kluane Tribal Council). A lack of equal representation occurred during this time and there was no engagement from the territorial or federal government about this impact. This caused feelings of distrust, significant social impacts, and economic disadvantages throughout the years that continue to this day as the Government of Yukon and Government of Canada favour neighbouring Nations with Final Agreements. No reparations for the wrongful amalgamations have been made to date.



participated in talks with the federal government under the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) framework. Ultimately, White River determined that the offer presented to Members regarding land claims was insufficient and did not reflect the beliefs of Elders, leadership, and Members at the time. White River did not sign a final agreement and the federal government refused to further negotiate with the Nation. White River became, unfortunately, tied to the Indian Act as an Indian Act Band with shocking limitations and reduced funding opportunities that were based solely on the number of registered Status Indians within the Nation. The Yukon followed Canada's agenda and embraced the UFA-signed Nations, and ignored the unceded. White River First Nation joined the Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation as the only Yukon First Nations without land claims agreements.

In September 2013, the Nation asserted the 1990 Map, which was developed by White River Elders, as the Traditional Territory. The map was originally presented in 1990 during UFA negotiations to the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada, but it was rejected. In the most recent assertion, the 1990 Map was paired with the WRFN: Consideration of the Northern Boundary report, a 225-page document with over 200 references that supports White River's claim to its northern territory. In 2014, White River won a Supreme Court of Yukon case against the Government of Yukon / Tarsis Resources for a severe lack of consultation regarding a proposed mining development within White River's asserted Traditional Territory. In 2017, the Premier of Yukon, Sandy Silver,



Photo: Dolly Porter and George Isaac at mile 1202, Beaver Creek, Jack's Portage, ca. 1942. Yukon Archives



recognized a duty to consult within the Coffee Creek area located in the asserted Traditional Territory. The Nation continues to refer only to the 1990 Map as the Traditional Territory with the addition of an extended southern boundary, rendering all other maps inaccurate in the eyes of the Nation. Neighbouring Nations have objected to the 1990 Map and prefer the confined and predetermined territory reflected in the UFA that perpetuates the wrongful amalgamation with Kluane. This point of view disregards our Elders who fought for our Nation's voice and Territory.

Throughout the years, White River First Nation has been the underdog as one of the smallest Nations in the North without a final agreement and land claims settlement. In the 1990s, White River created a Development Corporation which was further established in 2017 to assist with increasing revenue streams for the Nation. The White River Development Corporation and Copper Niisüü Limited Partnership were created entirely using White River's own funding sources, with no attribution of federal funding. Although the final agreements of other Nations can influence how governments engage with White River as a Nation, White River continues to look forward to a prosperous future and the well-being of its Members.

We are a strong and resilient Nation, and our Members are descendants of one common Matriarch, whose four daughters connected Northern Tutchone and Upper Tanana Peoples.



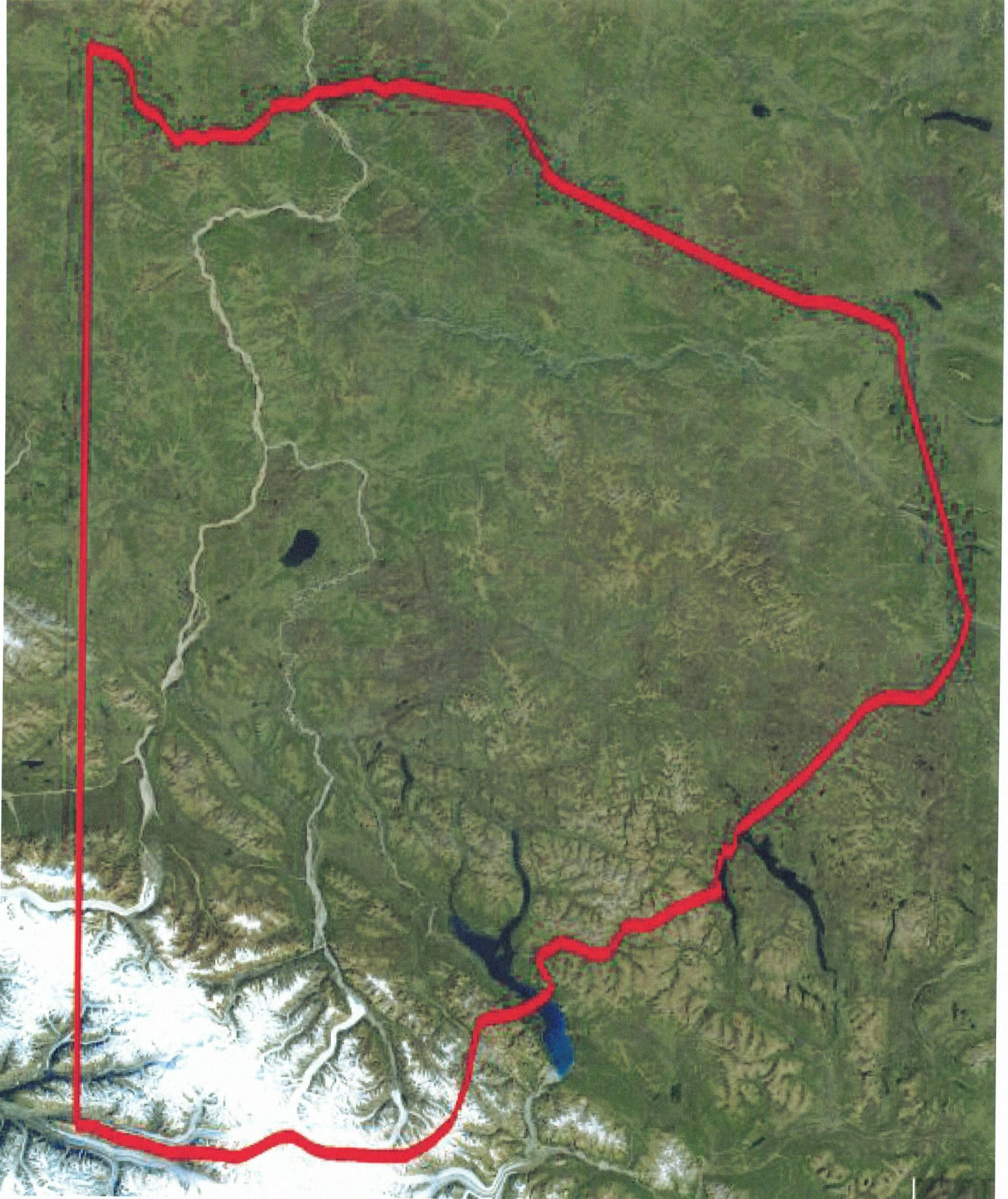
Our history is culturally rich, and we remain a vibrant group today that is strong because of our past and inspired by what our future is bringing to us. Looking back to the past, we have deep memories rooted in the land. This place is our home, and we are connected to it physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It is a place where our relations helped each other out, amid a strong sense of community. It is remote, and this brings qualities of safety, a quiet escape, and a sense of belonging. This is a place of pride, where our community means something deep to every one of our families. This is where we have always been, and we will always be here as a part of these lands and waters.

Thank you to Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé for her support with writing this section.
Photo on page: White River near mile 1171 of the Alaska Highway, 1944, Yukon Archives





Map of WRFN Territory

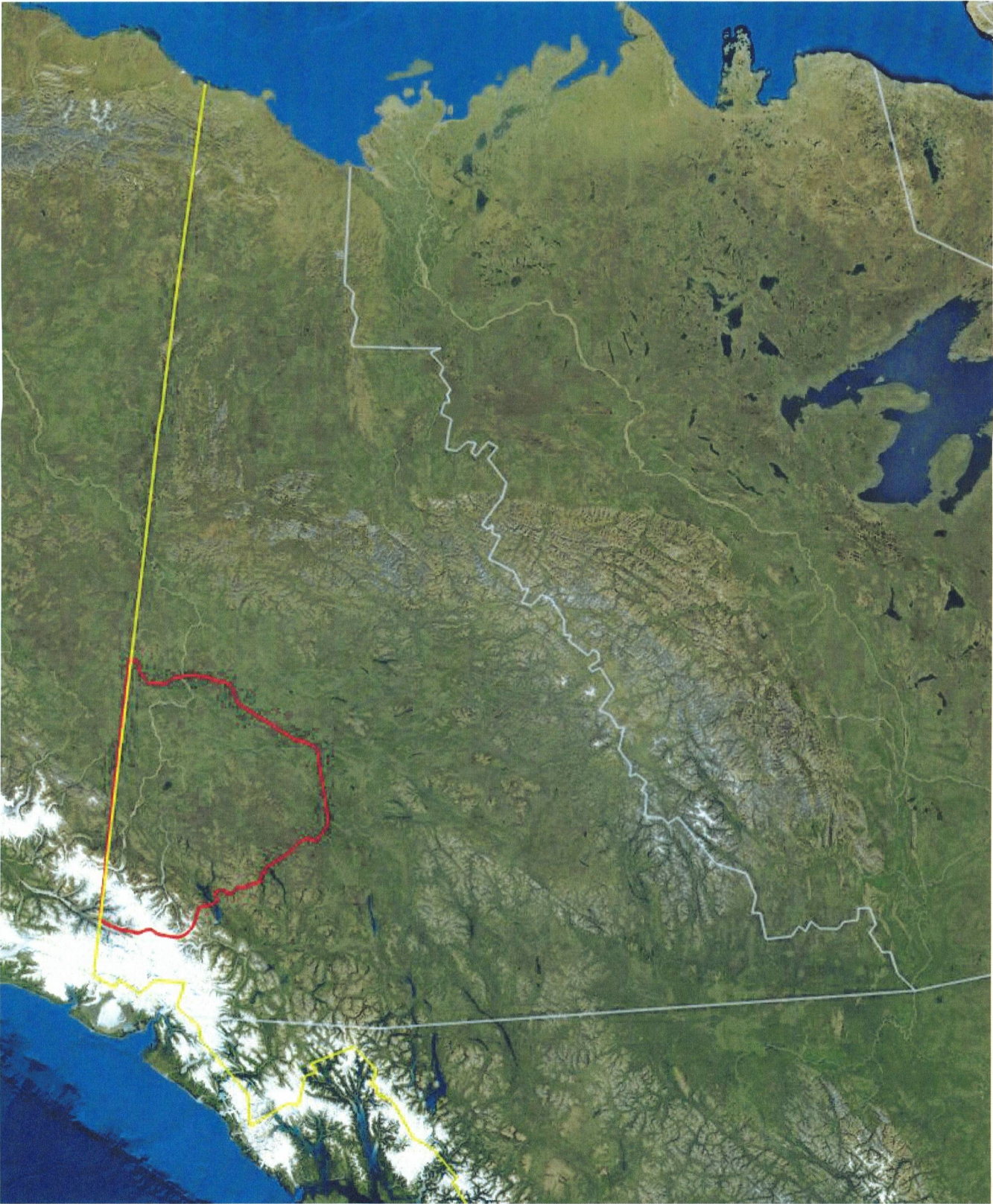


White River First Nation 1990 Map data supplied by the WRFN Lands Office.





Map of WRFN Territory (amid governmental borders)





WRFN and Beaver Creek Today

Today, the White River First Nation is situated in Beaver Creek, Yukon Territory, located at Kilometre 1870.6 (historical Mile 1202) of the Alaska Highway. Sitting on boggy flats, the community is home to 78 full-time residents as of 2021, according to Statistics Canada. White River First Nation has 161 registered Members as of May 2021. While many WRFN Members live in Beaver Creek, not all do; some Members live in Whitehorse (where the WRFN Lands Office is located), throughout the Yukon, and across Canada and the United States (mostly in Alaska).

Community members in Beaver Creek include Members and staff of the White River First Nation, transient workers, retirees, business owners, and government workers for both Canada and the Yukon. Beaver Creek is a five and half hour drive from Whitehorse. In addition to an airstrip and a Canada Border Services Agency, Beaver Creek also has: the Nelnah Bessie John School; the Mary Blair Wellness Centre; a Potlatch House with a restaurant-quality kitchen; a community hall with a bar, a gym, a kitchen, and a library; the White River First Nation administration office; hotels; gas stations; a community greenhouse; a government-run health centre; a visitor's centre; a vehicle service garage; an RCMP detachment; a Canada Post outlet; a restaurant; and a community dump. At the time of writing this CCP, a large-scale solar project is soon opening near Nelnah Bessie John School and the Community Hall. Several White River First Nation houses are being built and a community gathering area is being developed, among other initiatives.

Despite the list of resources and amenities listed above, Beaver Creek remains a community that is

often ignored and forgotten. Government interest and funding is slow to contribute to the community and each facet of the community struggles to be heard with problems remaining unresolved. Governments continue to fail the community and the Nation by not providing appropriate funding to support the maintenance and growth of a remote and the most westernly community in Canada.

Outside of Beaver Creek, White River First Nation occupies and stewards a vast territory. Traditional camps have been maintained and recreated throughout the territory for Membership to use. Traditional camps are being used at Coffee Creek, Wellesley Lake, Pickhandle Lake, Small Lake, Little John, among many others. Membership also occupies the areas of Koidern, Kluane Lake, Nisling River, Donjek River, White River, Yukon River, etc. White River Members are active on the land and hunt, trap, and harvest across the territory. These activities are a significant part of who White River First Nation Members are, and they continue to encourage their children and youth to learn these practices and traditions.



Photo on this page courtesy of the Planning Team





Snag and Scottie Creek

Northern Tutchone and Upper Tanana People have lived on the land since time immemorial, travelling across vast distances throughout the seasons. Some of our White River First Nation Elders were born on the land, in the bush. Prior to the international border coming into existence, our People would travel freely across the land following food and building relationships with neighbouring communities. Our families resided primarily at one time or another at the village sites of Snag and Scottie Creek.

Snag, an important traditional site to the Northern Tutchone, is located Southeast of Beaver Creek, while the Scottie Creek valley lies just West of Beaver Creek along the Alaska-Yukon border and remains an important traditional site to the Upper Tanana. These areas hold strong significance to us, and they are the closest historical sites to present-day Beaver Creek, although our connections to place extend much further across the Traditional Territory.



Thank you to Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé for her support with writing this section. Photos on this page courtesy of the Planning Team.

A decorative border of stylized flowers and green leaves surrounds the central text. The flowers are in shades of red, blue, and orange, with green leaves and stems. The border is composed of several repeating floral motifs connected by thin black lines.

White River First Nation Vision

**White River will be a strong,
healthy, and prosperous First
Nation, respectful stewards of
our traditional lands, waters
and skies, and guardians of
our culture and language.**

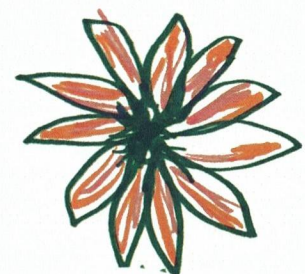


This Vision statement was adapted from the White River First Nation 2009
Comprehensive Community Development Plan



WRFN Goals for 2050

- 1** We have Thriving, Well-Supported Kids and Families
- 2** We have Living Languages and Culture
- 3** We have a Strong and Sustainable Economy
- 4** We have Excellent Housing, Community Spaces, and Infrastructure
- 5** We are Healthy in All Ways
- 6** We are Self-Determining with Good Governance and Leadership
- 7** We are in Good Relationship with One Another
- 8** We are Fostering Connections to Our Traditional Territory
- 9** We have Recognition of Rights over Our Traditional Territory



Goal 1

We have Thriving, Well-Supported Kids and Families

By 2050, we will be a Nation that values our family connections, showing love for our future generations by taking good care of our children. Our children will thrive with high quality education and a sense of identity, and our families will feel empowered to make good decisions for themselves.

Priorities

1. Ensure accessible, effective education and training for children and youth

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Explore virtual education options for high school students that wish to stay in Beaver Creek
- Establish a liaison program to provide cultural and general support for White River youth studying high school in Whitehorse, so that they stay connected to their culture and community
- Establish an after school childcare program in Beaver Creek
- Explore the provision of subsidies for Members who require daycare during educational studies

2. Establish community spaces that adapt to fit families' needs

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Establish a new well-stocked and well-maintained drop-in centre in Beaver Creek
- Conduct a feasibility study to build a daycare in Beaver Creek



Goal 2

We have Living Languages and Cultures

By 2025, we will be a multicultural Nation with pride in our Northern Tutchone and Upper Tanana lineages. We will uphold these cultures, languages, and Traditional Knowledge together as a community to ensure they continue to be strong for our future generations.

Priorities

1. Revitalize Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone languages

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Hire two full-time language keepers in community (one for Upper Tanana - Scottie Creek Dialect, one for Northern Tutchone - Snag Dialect) with a mandate to lead language programming for the Nation and inspire Members to learn their language
- Host regular language nights for Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone languages
- Increase wayfinding and historical signage around Beaver Creek in both Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone languages

2. Increase access to cultural activities

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Establish a Traditional Knowledge Committee with a diverse mix of WRFN Members to support the planning and promotion of cultural activities and events
- Continue to provide regular opportunities for families to come together, share knowledge with one another, and take part in ceremonies and cultural activities
- Continue to host monthly community workshops available to everyone throughout our Traditional Territory for sharing teachings of cultural practices such as: beading, making traditional clothing, sewing, harvesting, and traditional tool making among others
- Continue to provide meaningful opportunities for WRFN Membership living outside of Beaver Creek to engage with White River-funded cultural and social programming and events

Goal 3

We have a Strong and Sustainable Economy

By 2050, we will be a Nation that actively pursues economic endeavours that will ensure our people thrive into the future. We will provide our Members with abundant professional development and training opportunities that support the long-term economic wellbeing of our Nation. By supporting our development corporation to pursue tourism-based ventures within the Traditional Territory, including fostering partnerships with external organizations and stakeholders, we will bring long term benefits to the community.

Priorities

1. Establish WRFN Development Corporation-owned businesses and tourism in Beaver Creek

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of the following businesses:
 - » 24/7 gas bar
 - » Marijuana dispensary
 - » Laundromat
 - » General store (with groceries, household goods, and sporting goods)
 - » Craft store
 - » Campground
 - » Well-serviced RV camp
 - » Hotel

2. Advocate with the government for accessible, effective education and training opportunities for adults

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Promote community participation in established education and training programs
- Develop and maintain a list of various trainings WRFN Members have completed, and file copies of their certificates and resumes
- Continue to offer a diverse range of life skills training opportunities for Members in Beaver Creek, Whitehorse, and online
- Identify and promote funding opportunities for trade apprenticeships in Beaver Creek
- Continue to offer programs for computer literacy for all ages

Goal 4

We have Excellent Housing, Community Spaces, and Infrastructure

By 2050, we will be a Nation with culturally relevant community housing, enhanced community spaces for gathering, learning, and culture, and investments in capital infrastructure projects, supporting green spaces and stewardship practices. We will have the resources we need for Members and the wider community to live, work, and play in Beaver Creek.

Priorities

1. Provide safe, comfortable housing for all

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Conduct a Housing Needs Assessment with all WRFN Members
- Build high quality housing units to meet Members' needs
- Develop housing for single members in Beaver Creek, such as tiny homes or a multi-unit building
- Purchase WRFN-owned housing units in Whitehorse to support families to live there while their children attend high school

2. Create spaces for community connection

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Identify a location for respectful burial of loved ones on WRFN territory
- Build a new community hall, which could include space for: a bank, a library, a post office, a large meeting space, as well as a well-equipped kitchen and bathroom facilities
- Establish a fully equipped Community Studio for community members to work from and to host workshops for art and tool making
- Build an equipped garage or storage unit to hold secure community assets



Goal 5

We are Healthy in All Ways

By 2050, we will be a Nation that supports our people to be physically active and mentally strong. Our community will feel connected to one another and have abundant resources to take care of themselves and each other. The Nation will support its Members through a culturally appropriate approach to health, including Traditional Knowledge and practices, ensuring that the community has sustainable food practices and access to health services and facilities.

Priorities

1. Ensure Elders are well cared for

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Secure funding to provide in-home care for WRFN Elders in Beaver Creek, to support our Elders to live out the rest of their lives at home
- Identify and apply for funding to contribute to the expenses of Senior Living Facilities for Elders that are relocated to Whitehorse due to a lack of services in WRFN's Traditional Territory
- Develop community guidelines for approaching and navigating community deaths to show the utmost respect to grieving families and provide space to grieve in peace
- Advocate for Yukon Government to secure appropriate and updated healthcare and wellness equipment in Beaver Creek

2. Take care of our mental and physical health

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Continue to advocate for professional health services for Beaver Creek residents
- Continue to host regular gatherings centred on wellbeing within WRFN Traditional Territory
- Advocate for two full-time nurses to live and work in Beaver Creek
- Continue to provide culturally-appropriate treatment programs, both virtually and in-person
- Improve health infrastructure in Beaver Creek and procure essential medical equipment needed in the community (i.e. a handheld ultrasound)
- Conduct a feasibility study and secure funding for a Wellness Centre in Beaver Creek for healthcare and health wellness providers to host health-focused events and private meetings.

Goal 5

We are Healthy in All Ways (Continued)

3. Increase places for physical activity in Beaver Creek

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Advocate for the Yukon Government to renovate or rebuild the swimming pool in Beaver Creek
 - » Hire and train lifeguards to offer after school swimming programs
- Build an Ice Rink
- Identify funding to improve and maintain well-groomed local walking and biking trails, and re-establish traditional walking trails

4. Support food security and sovereignty in Beaver Creek

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Explore options for chicken and pig farming in Beaver Creek
- Hire a gardener to take care of the Beaver Creek Garden year-round
- Explore ethnobotany in the garden and growth of traditional medicines
- Develop a food sovereignty program for consistent use of the community garden year-round



Goal 6

We are Self-Determining with Good Governance and Leadership

By 2050, we will be an unceded Nation that fully exercises its rights to autonomy and self-determination, including the ability to govern, control, and decide the future for its lands and waters. WRFN leadership offers good guidance in the pursuit of self-determination. Members feel heard, connected, and empowered by the decisions that Nation leadership and staff make.

Priorities

1. Exercise self-determination

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Chief and Council to identify and advocate for a competitive and respectable compensation structure for WRFN staff
- Continue to hold governments and industries accountable in their due diligence to consult with our Nation
- Host regular coalition-style meetings with other unceded Nations to share updates and strengthen positions
- Continue to assert recognition of WRFN Northern Boundary to federal government
- Develop a plan to push forward a Southern Boundary assertion

2. Improve communications between administration, leadership, and Membership

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Continue to provide quarterly printed communications to Members, outlining important updates from leadership as well as Nation department activities
- Continue to host an annual General Assembly that provides Members with thorough project updates, financial goals, and space for open discussion
- Continue to recruit and hire staff to enhance WRFN's capacity to implement our Nation's collective goals
- Host community education and engagement sessions concerning Rights and Title to foster community understanding and participation at workshops and community events

Goal 7

We are in Good Relationship with One Another

By 2050, we will be a Nation that cultivates a strong sense of community and belonging among Members to ensure continuity and connections are maintained. Members acknowledge that community and cultural cohesion is an important aspect of building a vibrant and unified Nation.

Priorities

1. Strengthen community relationships

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Identify funding to support WRFN Members attending Nation assemblies/conferences/gatherings and providing opportunities to bring families together cross-border
- Host regular gatherings, feasts, and activities with all White River First Nation Members, regardless of where they live

2. Host programs and events for community connection

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Plan and develop a joint volunteer program with governmental organizations to promote local volunteer opportunities to all living in Beaver Creek
- Establish an Arts Collective to represent local artists and showcase local art
- Secure funding and develop a plan for an Arts & Culture Festival that would involve the participation of the entire community, uplifting musicians and artists
- Continue to host regular community events, such as:
 - » Craft nights
 - » Bingo nights
 - » Community dinners
 - » Planting parties at the green house
 - » Art residencies for local and outside community artists and offer programming associated
 - » Storytelling events

Goal 8

We are Fostering Connections to WRFN's Traditional Territories

By 2050, we will be a Nation that continues to live in our Traditional Territories our ancestors have taken good care of since time immemorial. We will continue to foster a connection to our lands, waters, and skies. Ensuring that for future generations, we will be able to spend time on our Traditional Territory and pass our knowledge to younger generations.

Priorities

1. Provide Members with land-based learning opportunities

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Continue to host regular outdoor workshops for all ages to learn and practise traditional camping, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor-based skills and practices
- Continue to host spring break and summer camps for children and youth on the land
- Identify and maintain a list of Members who are willing and able to teach and share cultural skills and knowledge

2. Ensure important places are accessible to WRFN Members

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Establish an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) within our Traditional Territory
- Continue to occupy Scottie Creek, Snag, Coffee Creek, Wellesley Lake, Donjek River, Koidern, Pickhandle, Small Lake, Yukon River, White River, Kluane, Nisling, and wherever we desire within our Traditional Territory
- Improve Member access to Traditional Territories, including Snag and Scottie Creek, while exploring opportunities with the Yukon Government to restrict non-member access to these sites
- Continue to ensure Members have access to existing cabins, with the gear needed to stay and enjoy the land throughout the year
- Regularly update the map of the community and surrounding traditional sites
- Conduct a climate impact assessment with Members for informed understanding of climate impacts to the Traditional Territory

Goal 9

We have Recognition of Rights over Our Traditional Territory

By 2050, WRFN is in a strong political position concerning our traditional territory. Leading to 2050, WRFN will continue to exercise and assert the recognition of its section 35 rights over its Traditional Territory. Through advocacy, external collaboration, and community engagement, WRFN will ensure that our rights over our traditional territory are communicated, asserted, and protected for future generations.

Priorities

1. Assert WRFN's Recognition of Section 35 Indigenous Rights over its Traditional Territory

Some proposed actions to meet this priority are:

- Collaborate with other First Nations, Indigenous organizations, and communities to build strategic partnerships that strengthen WRFN's governance
- Host discussions with other governments (Yukon Government and Federal Government) focused on advocating for greater policies and agreements to benefit Members and reflect the recognition of WRFN's rights
- Advocate for WRFN to have greater control over its Traditional Territories through negotiations, legal, and policy changes





28 Photo on this page courtesy of Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé





CCP Goals According to Beaver Creek's Youth



Children are so important to the process when planning the direction of a community's future. A community's youth are its future - and since this plan is looking 25 years ahead, it's crucial that their ideas, opinions, and dreams are enshrined in this plan with merit.

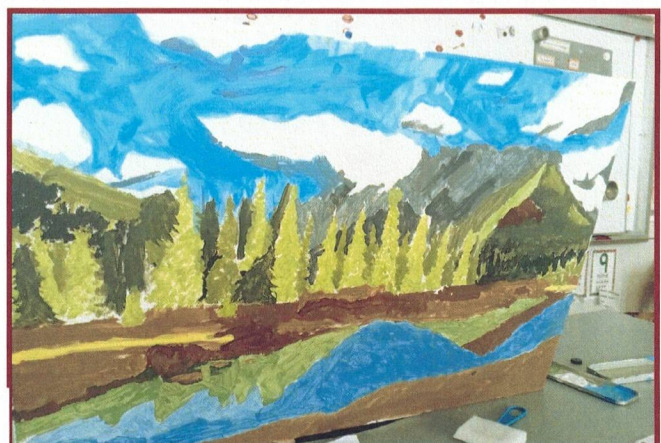
The Planning Team met with Beaver Creek's youth multiple times to learn what they love about the community and what they want to see in the future. We had these conversations over painting, while playing kickball, and while playing dressup among other activities! We learned that the children of Beaver Creek absolutely love the land and love their families. They want to see Beaver Creek as a fun place where they can continue to play with excitement and safety.

In an effort to learn more about what Beaver Creek's youth see for the future, we invited them to share art representing what sorts of opportunities they want to experience in Beaver Creek.

Photos on the page include childrens' drawings at the April 2023 Beaver Creek Engagement and scenes at Nelna Bessie John School, April 2023, courtesy of the Planning Team

We want to say a very special thank you to Remy Rodden and the Nelna Bessie John School Staff for helping to facilitate this fun project as well as helping to coordinate the Planning Team's visits in general. It was such a treasure to meet with the children of the community - not to check off the box of engaging their ideas, but to really connect, play, learn, and have fun together.

The following pages share what the students of Nelna Bessie John School came up with when prompted to think about what they want to see in their community.



Grocery Store by Blake Chassé, Grade 9, Age 14

Grocery store





Snowboarding/Skiing Hill by Louis Chassé, Grade 6, Age 12

Snowboarding/Skiing hill

Louis

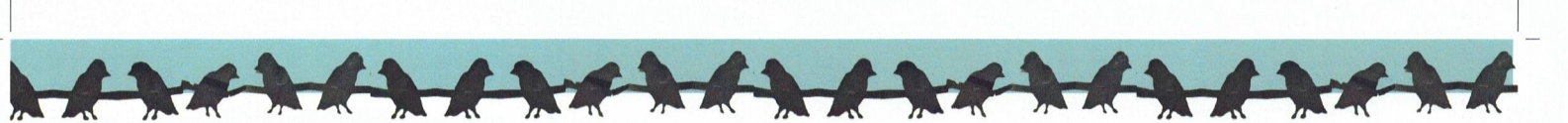




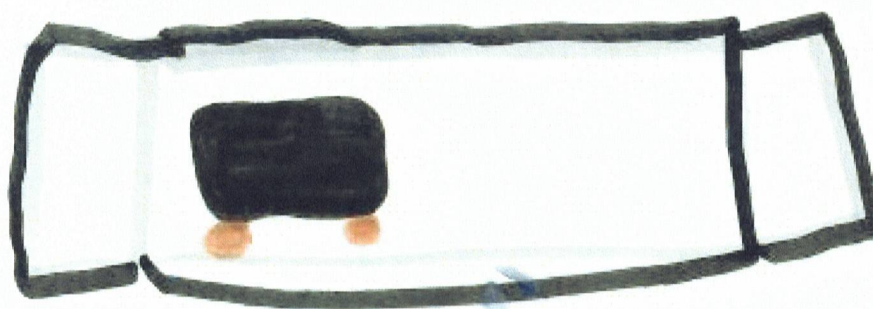
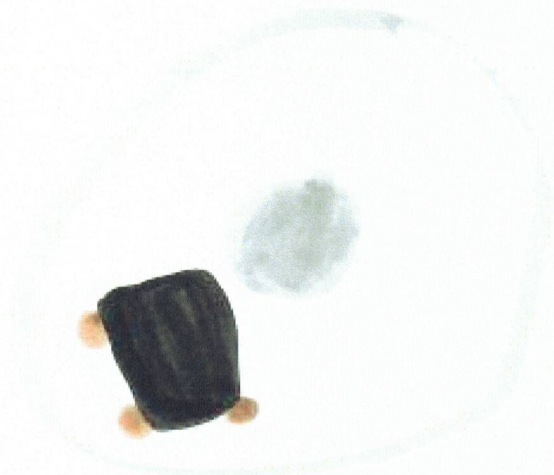
**Mountain Biking Tracks by Robert Chassé, Grade 6,
Age 12**

MTB tracks

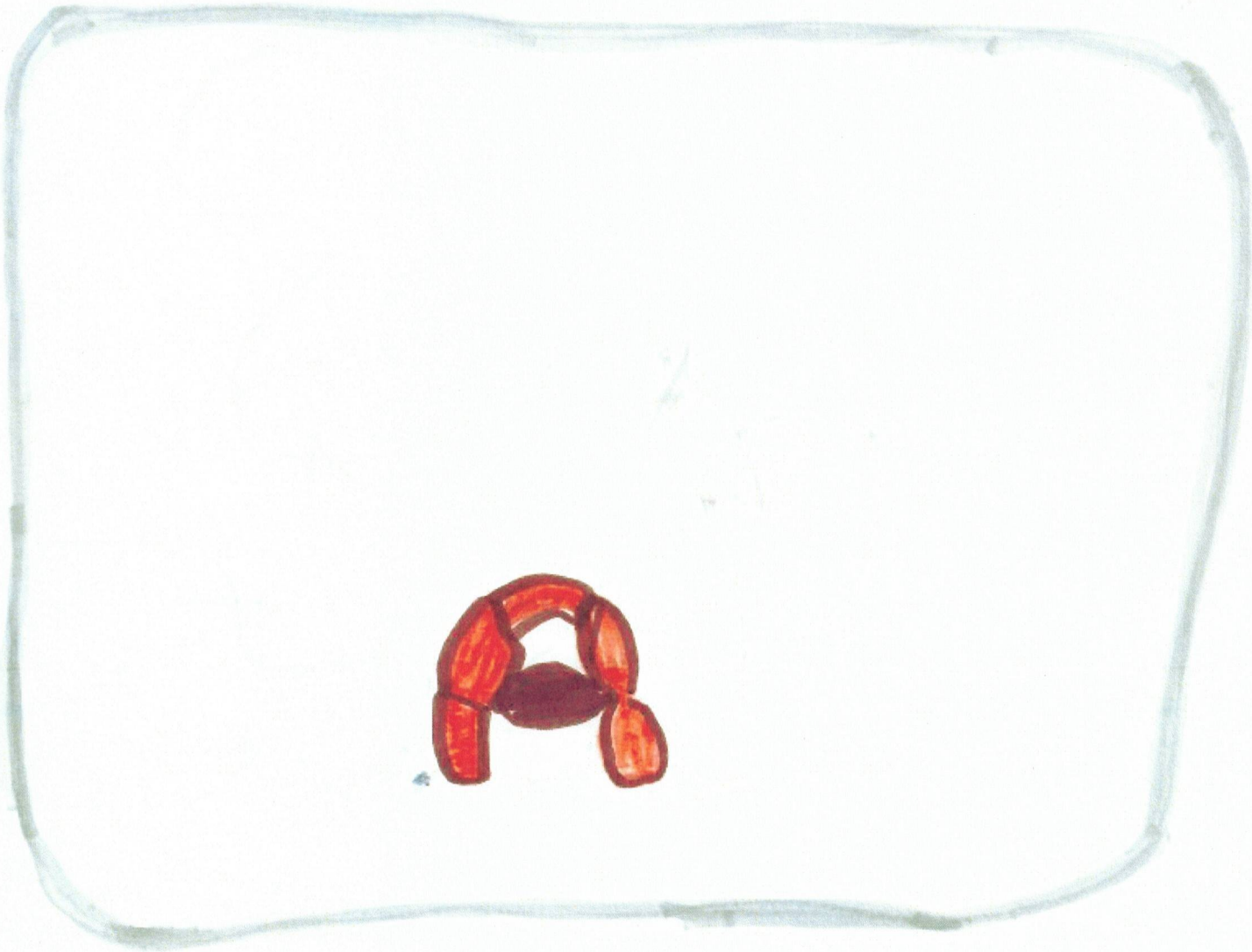




Skate Park by Louis Chassé, Grade 6, Age 12



Swimming Pool by Louis Chassé, Grade 6, Age 12

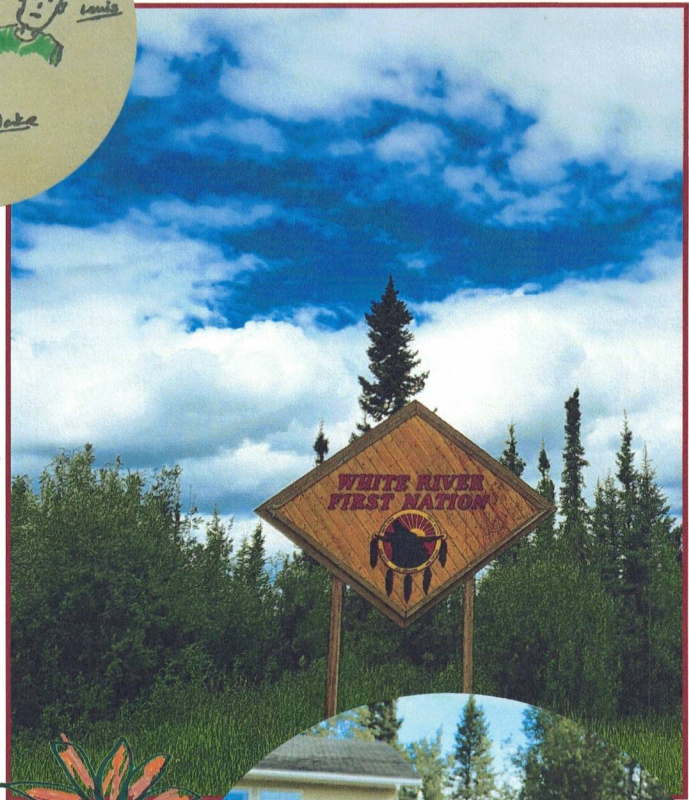
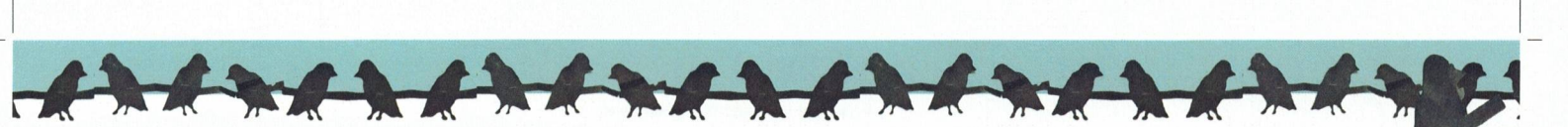




Pool with Waterslide by Autumn Robson, K, Age 6

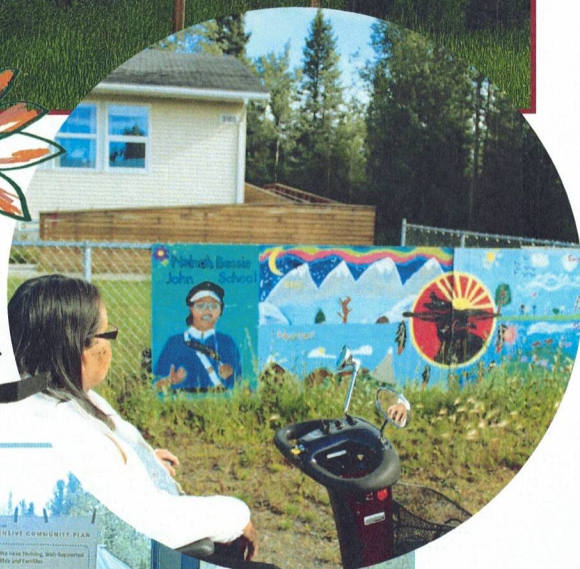
Pool with waterslide

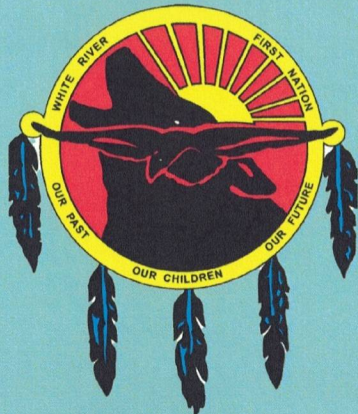




Thank You

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Mesę'*







Signatures of Approval

This Plan is approved and adopted by White River First Nation Council, signed on:

October 11, 2024
Date

Chief Bessie Chassé
Chief

Charles Eikland Sr.
Councillor

[Signature]
Councillor

[Signature]
Councillor

Councillor

Alternate Councillor

Alternate Councillor

