



**KTUNAXA
NATION**

Lands & Resources
NEWSLETTER AND UPDATES

Kəiʔmitiʔqʔtikwaʔit 2020 August 2020

fruit ripening during night

Kiʔsuʔk Kyukyit qapi niskiʔ

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, enjoying all that Ktunaxa ʔamakʔis has to offer.

If you're going out, stay safe out there – the numbers in BC are on the rise and that is concerning. Take care of yourself, wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, keep your circles small, use masks when coming in contact with others and be safe when out on the land and around the rivers and streams.

The KNC office continues to be closed to the public, and the Lands staff continue to work from home. While all face to face, in-person community engagement has ceased, we are planning on utilizing our new tools to host open engagement sessions starting in August. We look forward to seeing everyone on these on-line platforms and hearing your input. (If you need support to connect, please contact the Community Engagement team and we will do our best to support your participation.) KNC Lands and Resources Sector will continue to take guidance from KNC's COVID-19 Response Committee as to when it is safe to start re-engaging citizens face to face. As always, please remember to treat each other with kindness and call the elders in your community to make sure they have what they need. Taxa

Help Support Recovery of ʔaʔnik (Kokanee) in Ktunwa·kanmituk (Kootenay Lake)!

In 2015, the ʔaʔnik (Kokanee) population crashed in Ktunwa·kanmituk (Kootenay Lake) from millions of spawners to a few thousand. The population has remained crashed since then. The Kootenay Lake Advisory Team (KLAT), a team of technical experts including members from KNC, was assembled to investigate the potential causes of the collapse of the fishery and concluded that the most likely explanation was predator over-abundance, driving an extreme predator-prey abundance cycle. Further research since has confirmed this hypothesis –over-abundant qustiʔ (Rainbow Trout) and tuhuʔ (Bull Trout) collapsed their food source of ʔaʔnik, particularly young age classes, and are still too abundant to allow recovery of ʔaʔnik.

As a result of the ʔaʔnik fishery crash, we ask Ktunaxa anglers to support ʔaʔnik recovery by targeting qustiʔ and tuhuʔ in Ktunwa·kanmituk. Any size of qustiʔ and tuhuʔ caught by angling are predators of ʔaʔnik and their removal will help ʔaʔnik numbers. Staff from the Lands and Resources sector of KNC are also planning a Ktunaxa fishing event sometime in the fall to support ʔaʔnik recovery. Please stay tuned and contact Vickie Thomas (vthomas@ktunaxa.org) or Jim Claricoates (jclaricoates@ktunaxa.org) for more information.

A parallel angler incentive program is being implemented by the province, which includes monthly draws for prizes and a grand prize of a 18' Kingfisher boat equipped with a 115hp Yamaha Engine. More information about prize details, FAQs, program rules can be found at <https://bcwf.bc.ca/kootenay-lake-angler-incentive-program/>.

Please contact Misun Kang (mkang@ktunaxa.org) for more information about the ʔaʔnik crash and recovery efforts.

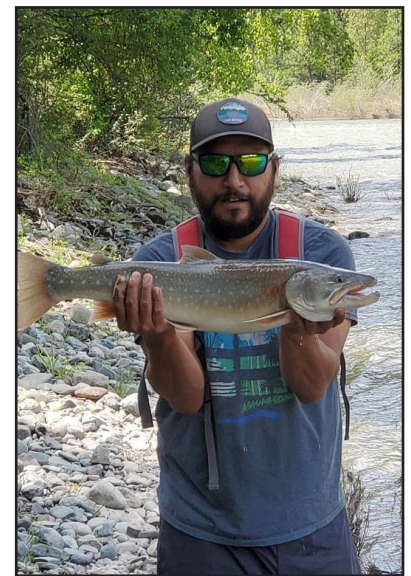
Lands and Resources Sector Council:

Sandra Luke (Chair)
Lower Kootenay

Avery Gravelle
Tobacco Plains

Jason Andrew
ʔaʔam

Alfred Joseph
ʔakisq̓nuk



Attention Kootenay Lake Anglers

Main Body Kootenay Lake Kokanee

Daily Quota = 0

Know Your Fish: Rainbow and Kokanee ID

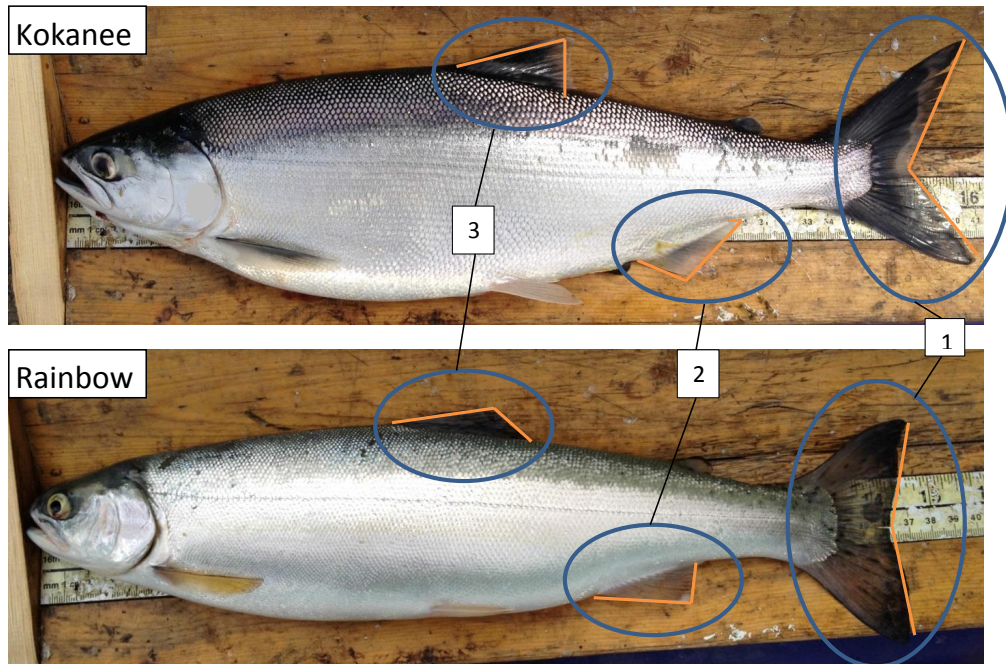
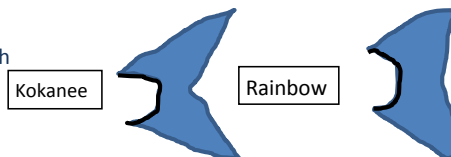


Photo credit: Karen Frazer (both)

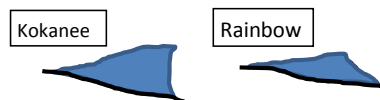
1. **Caudal fin (tail):** Kokanee have a much deeper fork and pointier tips.



2. **Anal fin:** Rainbow trout have a triangle shape, where the tip of the leading fin ray extends back to the rear insertion of the fin when folded down. Kokanee have rectangular shape, more rays (13 or more), and the leading fin ray tip is not close to the rear end of the fin.



3. **Dorsal fin:** This is basically the opposite of the anal fin, but less obvious: Kokanee have the more triangle shaped dorsal fin, where the leading fin ray tip is almost directly above the rear fin ray tip. Rainbow is slightly more rectangular and the tip of the leading ray is ahead of the the more posterior rays.



For further information contact the Ministry of Forests, Lands
and Natural Resource Operations: 250-354-6333

ławiyatł Stewardship Planning in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa

This project was initiated because of the overall importance of ławiyatł (Huckleberries) to Ktunaxa for food security and also due to Ktunaxa Citizens concerns about the Commercial Harvesting of ławiyatł, and the potential loss and destruction of food and habitat for Grizzly Bears.

In the past year, KNC has been working closely with BC to develop a collaborative approach to the development of a ławiyatł Stewardship Plan. This is a different way of doing things in the past, and is taking time to build relationships, trust and understanding of different ways of viewing the world. KNC staff had intended to come out and engage with Ktunaxa citizens this Spring, however COVID has made this challenging. We are working to develop a new way of engaging and will be looking to engage on this important issue in the near future – potentially online.

Monitoring

In the summer of 2019, Lands staff Laine Twigg and Marty Williams were involved in ławiyatł monitoring with BC biologists and also NRO's. This monitoring will continue to an extent this summer, respecting COVID protocols.



Commercial Huckleberry Closures

In 2018, BC implemented Commercial huckleberry harvesting closures through many areas of ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, in large part based on Grizzly bear habitat. Through a collaborative effort between KNC and BC, the closures were slightly amended (increased) in 2019 and they will be implemented again in the summer 2020, with additional language about best practices of not using rakes or harming the berry bushes etc. The Press Release and maps can be found at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/22614>

Please note: These closures do not apply to Ktunaxa harvesters who have protected Section 35 rights.

Next Steps

In the next year, we will be holding Focus Groups with Ktunaxaniintik to better understand what your issues/concerns and solutions are for ławiyatł Stewardship.

If you are knowledgeable about ławiyatł, are ready to work with us and would like to be a part of this very important discussion, please contact Melissa Teneese at MRTeneese@ktunaxa.org to sign up to engage on this very important issue, to share with us what you would like to see for the future of ławiyatł in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. Please sign up by August 15, 2020 and we will have our first Focus Group in the Fall.



Kisuk Kyukyit

With Fall coming upon us soon, I want to take this opportunity to share with you, some of my personal prep work before I start my yearly hunting journey. I take this role very seriously, as I not only hunt for my family and I, but I also help those in need, when I can. There are many things that I do personally to prepare for the hunting season, harvesting big game animals such as Deer, Elk, and Moose. I have learned many different traditional ktunaxa customs in becoming a hunter. I have learned from different people far and wide, but most of my teachings have been from my dad and my great uncle dawit (David Luke), not to get off track but I have a real hard time calling him by his english name Dave, David.... Anyhow, back to my teachings of hunting. Some people may not know, but the biggest thing I've learned was "The Rites of Passage". I had to go through many different levels of learning before becoming a hunter, also known as a community provider. I try to hunt and share my harvest with all community members when I am successful, on occasion I will try to harvest an animal for the community. I say it like this because we are never guaranteed to be successful when we go out hunting.

"Rites of Passage" I often wonder if this is still being practiced within the nation or how many of our people know of these ways. I am always willing to help and talk about what I've been taught, in our ways it's not ours to keep, we need to share and pass on the traditions, that's what keeps the traditions and culture alive. There were many things that I needed to learn before I was able to carry a rifle. I had to target practice with a rifle, and even having to understand that a rifle takes the life of an animal. The understanding of how a deer, elk, or moose is giving up their life for you and your loved ones, during the winter months, to keep you healthy, to endure the cold winter season. These are just some of the steps into becoming a provider for your family and community. It all comes down to learning and understanding that you're taking a life of an animal to feed yours. There is a lot that I go through in preparation before the start of my hunting season. But the "Rites of Passage" is a huge milestone to becoming a Ktunaxa hunter.

"Pre-Season Preparation" I start my hunting season by planning a trip in the late summer months to give thanks and to pray to the animals from the previous hunting season. I then pray for the season coming up and that I will be successful for my family and I and whomever I will be helping out this season. I give thanks for what I was able to harvest, I like to say harvest because I don't like the word kill, shot, or shoot, I like the word harvest, I feel this shows more respect to the animal. We are taught to utilize the animal to the fullest, and that is what I try to do annually. So, in late summer months I head up to the mountains and say prayers to the animals. Then I start to look over all my hunting gear that I may use throughout the hunting season. I will sharpen my knives, check my rope, my cables to pull with my truck, chainsaw if needed, go over my vehicle to see if it needs anything done mechanically, there's lots to do, even looking at your boots and clothing, sighting in my rifle (target practice). I ask some of my family members if they are wanting any wild meat for themselves for the winter, most of the time they're just wanting the awesome jerky I can make, lol. But getting an estimate on whom is wanting/needing some wild meat helps to know how many animals we may need to harvest.



“Harvesting and being Successful” We, my family and I usually become successful in harvesting a couple animals, we usually get them butchered and wrapped. Trina and I let our family members know to just come to the house and to help themselves to the deer, elk, and moose meat if they want. Some family members will try to give a few dollars to help with the gas, cutting and wrapping but I don’t expect anything as I know it is like my contribution to the family and or community members. Just so you know anything you can make with beef, pork, or even chicken you can do the same thing with deer, elk, or moose. A few of my favorite dishes with wild game are: A full on Roast dinner with all the fixin’s, NDN tacos, and moose or elk Dips (same as beefdip) these are my go-to meals on a cold day, but I can’t forget about the classic hearty stew and fry bread. After doing all my inventory of my hunting gear, I then prepare with other traditional teachings, these I will share when needed and if you want to ask me, some teachings are to be taught and shared when the time is right. Talking about this in a newsletter like this is not the place.

There is a lot of emotions that one may go through once you have harvested an animal. Some, if not most, will cry if it’s your first successful hunt as a hunter. You will go through that release of all the hard work you’ve done come rushing through your body and it turns into joy and pride and the feeling of success and accomplishments of all the work you put into becoming a hunter/provider for you, your family, and community. In the teachings I was taught to distribute and to give away the whole animal to any community members who wish to share in your success. Those community members have a responsibility as well, when they have their meal with the meat that you’ve shared, they should be saying prayers for you to be successful in all the times you hunt so that you can continue to help them when you can. There is a lot of work that needs to be done after harvesting an animal. You need to field dress the animal, hang and skin the animal in a very cold area so that the meat doesn’t get a chance to spoil and to also make sure that flies don’t get a chance to lay their eggs. I will sometimes butcher a deer as it is smaller and I can easily handle the process of making ground and roasts. I will also take different cuts of the deer and make jerky. I will hang the deer for a couple days before cutting the and/or taking it to the butcher. I will keep a front quarter to prep for jerky. There are a few other parts that you need to prep if someone is asking for them. Some people will request the heart, liver, kidney, hooves, leg bones or all bones, hide, akwum, and the brains. With that, as you can see we eventually utilized the whole animal.

In closing, I would like to say that I hope you enjoyed a part of my life as a Ktunaxa hunter and what it means to me and how I prepare for the hunting season and how I take hunting as an honor and not as a privilege.

From a proud ktunaxa hunter, Thank You, Chad Luke

Ktunaxa Nation Lands & Resources

August 2020

Scavenger Hunt

INDOOR

I have four legs but no feet.
When you get tired, have a seat.

Inside here you will find coats and shoes.
Keep it organized so you know whose are whose.

You have one, probably more, each with a knob and even a lock.
When company comes you will hear a knock, knock.

Turn out the light and rest your head on me tonight.

You use me after playing in the dirt.
If I get in eyes it might hurt.

OUTDOOR

I can be flat, but usually, round, some like to paint me and some like to throw me around.

Find the shrubs in the front and pick me up off the ground.

From my skin, a paper can be made,
but I prefer that you use me for some shade.

They grow up tall but could be small.
They smell so pleasant and make a good present.

Turn me on to see at night,
I'll make the porch seem so bright.

Please complete and send to mrteneese@ktunaxa.org, with answers in Ktunaxa! ☺ (you may also include a picture of these items – will do a draw once all are in by August 31st 2020)

A KNC led community engagement workshop on the Environmental Assessment of Teck's Fording River Operations expansion, Castle project.

Dates/ times:
August 12;
10:00am – 12:00pm

August 13;
5:30pm – 7:30pm



Ktunaxa citizens, KNC, Teck, and the Environmental Assessment Office

Workshop topics:

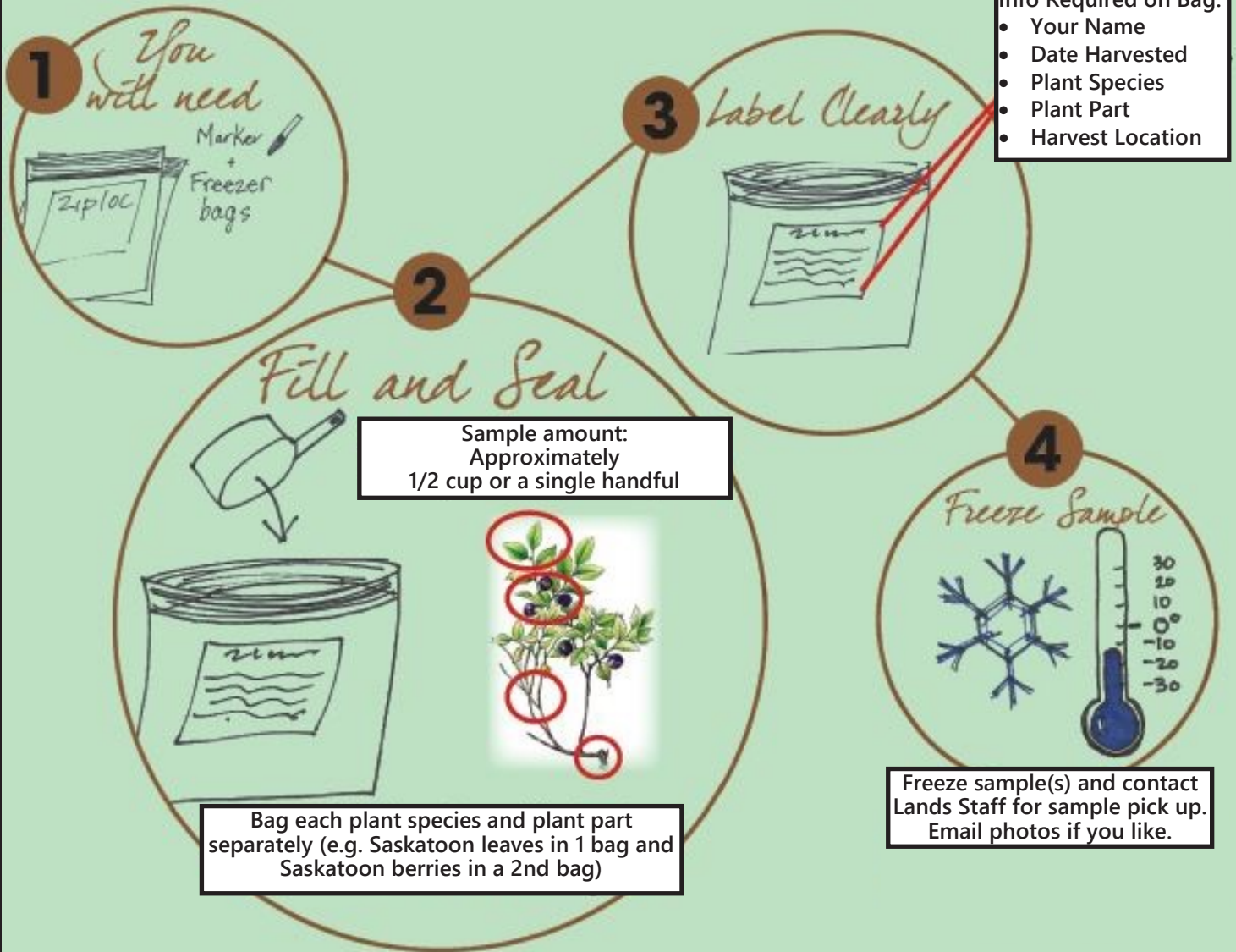
- The Environmental Assessment process under the new BC Environmental Assessment Act
- An introduction to the project by Teck
- KNC engagement on Castle
- Questions to Ktunaxa citizens

Please contact:

Melissa Teneese if interested in participating, will provide you with ZOOM information.

mrteneese@ktunaxa.org

Wild Foods Sampling Program



**Help monitor our plants and medicine in
Ktunaxa ?Amak?is!**

To submit Samples Contact:

Vickie Thomas

VThomas@ktunaxa.org

Phone: 250-489-2464 ext 4034

Erin Robertson

ERobertson@ktunaxa.org

Phone: (250) 489-2464 Ext. 3137



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Call for Participation

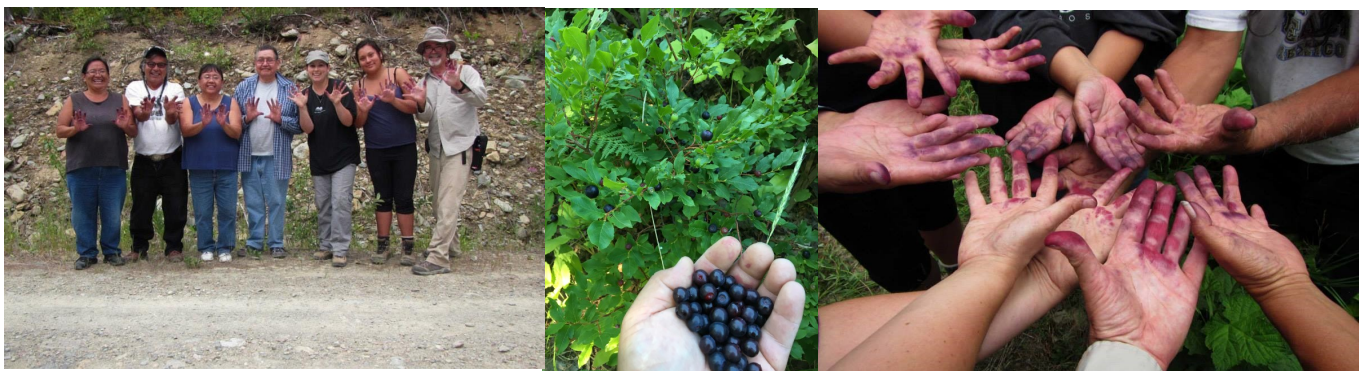
Sign up by August
15, and we will
have the first Focus
Group in the Fall!



Are you Knowledgeable and Interested in the future of ᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ and Kiᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ in ᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ Ktunaxa?

If so, we need you to help us plan for the future stewardship of these important resources to the Ktunaxa.

We are looking for knowledgeable, dedicated, passionate Ktunaxa who are interested in participating over the next year, in numerous Focus Groups.



Please contact Melissa Teneese to sign up at MRTeneese@ktunaxa.org

For more information on these projects, please contact Marty Williams and Chad Luke at Marty.Williams@ktunaxa.org and CMLuke@ktunaxa.org

KNC Lands and Resources Staff Directory

Name	Email	Job Title
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Cathy Conroy	cconroy@ktunaxa.org	Biodiversity and Reclamation Specialist (Mines)
Chad Luke	cmluke@ktunaxa.org	Ktunaxa Steward, Community Engagement
Craig Paskin	cpaskin@ktunaxa.org	Interim Team Lead, Strategic Initiatives & Manager, Policy & Planning
Crystal Phillips	Crystal.Phillips@ktunaxa.org	Administrative Assistant
Erin Robertson	erobertson@ktunaxa.org	Team Lead, Mining Oversight
Gregg Huculak	ghuculak@ktunaxa.org	Business Administrator
Greg Johnson	greg.johnson@ktunaxa.org	Team Lead, Guardian
Heather McMahon	hcmahon@ktunaxa.org	Project Biologist
Ian Adams	ian.Adams@ktunaxa.org	Terrestrial Ecologist (contractor)
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Kamila Baranowska	kbaranowska@ktunaxa.org	Aquatic Biologist
Kenton Andreashuk	kandreashuk@ktunaxa.org	Fisheries Guardian
Kerri Garner	kgarner@ktunaxa.org	Lands Stewardship Planner (unofficial title)
Laine Twigg	laine.twigg@ktunaxa.org	Aknusti Guardian
Marty Williams	marty.williams@ktunaxa.org	Ktunaxa Steward, Community Engagement
Melissa Teneese	mrteneese@ktunaxa.org	Admin Assistant, Community Engagement
Michelle Dunn	mdunn@ktunaxa.org	Referrals Administrator
Misun Kang	mkang@ktunaxa.org	Knowledge Team Co-Lead & Sr. Biologist
Nathalie Allard	nallard@ktunaxa.org	Archaeology Technician
Nicole Kapell	njkapell@ktunaxa.org	Land Use Research Program Coordinator & Knowledge Team Co-Lead
Rick Neidig	rneidig@ktunaxa.org	Operations Director (contractor)
Ray Warden	rwarden@ktunaxa.org	Director, Lands and Resources Sector
Vickie Thomas	vthomas@ktunaxa.org	Team Lead, Community Engagement

fruit ripening during night

August 2020

kukiz̧inmiyit SUNDAY	kʔaʔukinmiyit MONDAY	kʔaʔaymiyit TUESDAY	kʔaqaʔsanmiyit WEDNESDAY	kʔaxaʔanmiyit THURSDAY	kʔayi-kunmiyit FRIDAY	kʔaʔinmisanmiyit SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Language lessons every Tuesday in August starting at 7pm				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Language lessons every Tuesday in August starting at 7pm	Castle Project Information Session at 10 am to noon	Castle Project Information Session at 10 am to noon		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Qatmuk site visit All Day	Language lessons every Tuesday in August starting at 7pm				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Language lessons every Tuesday in August starting at 7pm	Lands Staff meeting 9 am to 2 pm			
30	31	1	2	3	4	5