

December 14, 2011

Dear Nacho Nyak Citizen,

*Ut'óhudinch'i hulin dzenú (Merry Christmas)*

Once again it is time to hang the socks over the fireplace, hang mistletoe over the doorway and place the presents to glitter under the tree. The holiday season is almost upon us, and that means you'll be spending time with family and friends and interacting with people while attending work or holiday events. Christmas day will soon be here☺

In times past at the old village downriver from the town of Mayo, Christmas was a joyous time of the year. Smoke curling from the stovepipes of homes, people visiting from house to house enjoying tea and bannock. Horse drawn sleds loaded with people visiting from the town of Mayo to share the joys of Christmas and the New Year.

It's been a really busy NND year with much change and a huge amount of work. Staff throughout the government have risen to the challenges and shown yet again what a committed and skilled group of employees First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun has. As the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun step into the corporate world of industry, we as First Nation people are faced with huge challenges that we shall face with a united front very much like breaking trail in the days of old with our dogs and sleds.

While Council wants to acknowledge all of this hard work it is worth picking out a few highlights.

The Implementation department is working hard with Canada to create a better understanding on how to best implement the Final Agreements with the new Government in place in the Yukon. We anticipate a good transparent relationship on how to better programs to benefit Yukon First Nations and Yukoners in general.

The current engagement process the First Nation has adopted to engage with interested Mining proponents is working very well. Resource extraction in the First Nation Traditional territory will be a huge financial gain for the future of First Nations economy. We enjoy a good relationship with the exploration companies that are interested in First Nation resources.

The Peel Watershed issue is in the final stages with the principals yet to consult. We expect that the Yukon Government and First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun will resume consultation in the New Year of 2012.

Mayo "B" is in the final stages of construction, camp closure is expected in the Spring of 2012.

The new store is well on its way, the construction of the building on Front Street is moving fast and we anticipate a grand opening in the Spring of 2012.

As some of you may know, NND has now filled the Executive Director position, and we are pleased to announce it is one of our own Citizens, Ms. Brenda Jackson. Welcome to Brenda and we look forward to working with her at the executive level of our government.

Council of FNNND now has full representation, congratulations and welcome back to Councillor Barb Buyck and a warm welcome to Councillors Hazel Johnny and Mikolay Peter and to the Youth Councillor Karla Olsen. There is now a good cross section of the community on Council. We look forward to a good New Year. This will mean change for Staff and also for our Citizens we work for; and that the steps taken are on the right path. We anticipate that we will see positive things happen for the Citizens as a whole and the quality of life they enjoy today will endure for future generations to come.

As in days of old, the hardships that our ancestors endured to overcome difficult situations, they accomplished this by working together. We are in the early years of self-government, we still have a long way to go but can be optimistic that we will succeed based on the start we have made and the strong commitments shown by Council and the employees working here. While we don't know the outcome of breaking new trail for a First Nation government yet, we remain focused on showing that FNNND is a government that stands for quality, achieving commitments for the Citizens we work for and embracing good governance. Together we will strive to maintain the tradition of working together to overcome the difficult years that are yet to come. To quote Chief Elijah Smith's famous words..."Together Today for our Children Tomorrow".

It is important to take the holiday season as a time to reflect on how far we've come over the years as First Nations people. From being a free nation, to Indian Residential school, to Department of Indian Affairs and now Self Governance. We are continually facing new challenges, forming new

partnerships, learning, growing and have many reasons to be grateful this Christmas and look forward to what the New Year has to present.

On behalf of the Staff and Council of FNNND I would like to wish you a happy, safe holiday season and New Year full of joy, peace and prosperity to you and your family.

Mussi Cho,



Chief Simon Mervyn

