

Let the Sun Shine In!

Photo: A Ptarmigan catches the arctic sun in Yellowknife.

Here at PlanIt North, the sun has returned to our office windows and our solar-powered team is busy polishing projects for government fiscal end. As you'll see in our newsletter stories, we are excited about our clients' recent accomplishments in Fort Good Hope and across the Dehcho.

In the coming weeks, we'll be traveling to the Sahtú and Dehcho regions to continue our work supporting communities with their housing, land use planning, and environmental stewardship projects. It's otherwise business as usual, and we're loving every moment of it.

- The PlanIt North team

WELCOMING CARRIE

We are excited to welcome Carrie Breneman to PlanIt North. Based in Whitehorse, Yukon, Carrie will be joining and expanding our Environment & Research team as a Senior Project Manager and helping us deliver more services across the North.

Carrie has over fifteen years of experience in environmental, social and resource management studies, traditional land use studies, impact assessment and regulatory applications, communications, and technical writing. She has maintained close connections with many NWT communities since her years living in Fort Simpson. She has extensive industry experience in resource development and has worked with Indigenous Nations and organizations, government, and in the private sector. Since 2009, the majority of Carrie's projects have involved supporting communities across the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Welcome to the team, Carrie!



DFN NATURE FUND PROJECT

Last year, Dehcho First Nations (DFN) was awarded \$9.5M to establish four Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) by 2026 through the federal Indigenous-led Area Based Conservation program. Ushered by the hard work and advocacy of dedicated Indigenous leaders and members in each community, the four IPCAs have been in development for the last 15 years. PlanIt North is working with DFN to provide Dehcho regional coordination for the four communities and their protected areas: Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation for the Ka'a'gee Tu Protected Area, Sambaa K'e First Nation for the Sambaa K'e Protected Area, Ttsets'ehk'édélj First Nation for Lue Túé Sulái, and K'atl'odeeche First Nation for Ejié Túé Ndáde.

PlanIt North's Ryan Planche worked alongside Dehcho regional land use planner Heidi Wiebe to facilitate a 3-day in-person workshop with DFN and the four communities in December. Hosted in Yellowknife, the workshop kick-started knowledge-sharing across communities and governments. Representatives from the Territorial government, Environment Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service, as well as Ducks Unlimited and the MakeWay Foundation, shared their knowledge, support and guidance for the next four years. Each community provided updates on their conservation progress to date, and discussed key successes, challenges, and pathways forward.

Keynote speakers included Eli Enns from the Isak Olam Foundation and Marilyn Baptiste of Xeni Gwet'in First Nation (BC), who spoke about their experiences developing and establishing Indigenous-led protected areas on Canada's West Coast.

We are excited to continue supporting DFN and the Dehcho communities as they move forward with the protection of their Traditional Territories.



Photo: Ryan Planche

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The **CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative** provides capital contributions for the rapid construction of new housing and/or the acquisition of existing buildings for rehabilitation or conversion to permanent affordable housing. The current initiative is expected to create up to 4,500 new affordable housing units, with at least 25 per cent of funding going towards women-focused housing projects.

cmhc.ca/rapidhousing

Deadline: March 15



LET'S BE CREATIVE

PlanIt North's art team
is ready to make your message
STAND OUT!

Good graphic design can:

- Make complex concepts easy to digest,
- Convey emotion and beauty, and
- Ensure your messages are clear and polished.

People are visual creatures. Invest in good design to build your product, tell your story, and communicate your key messages. Collaborate with your designer, bring them in early in the process, and give leeway to creativity. The results will be worth the investment.

Have a creative project in mind?

Reach out to Jen: jen@planitnorth.ca



FORT GOOD HOPE HOUSING FORUM

PlanIt North supported the K'ásho Got'Iné Housing Society (KGHS) in planning and facilitating a 2-week, community-wide Housing Forum in Fort Good Hope in January. The Forum was an opportunity to discuss successes and challenges in the implementation of the Society's Strategic Housing Plan.

With PlanIt North's support, KGHS staff provided updates to community members on current housing projects and sought feedback to inform the Society's next priorities.

Participants discussed a number of topics over the two days, including:

- KGHS's repair and maintenance program,
- The Kádúyíle Men's Transition Home,
- Plans for the three duplex units arriving this summer,
- Transitional housing for people returning from addictions treatment,
- Pre-apprenticeship trades training program,
- A new building trades training facility for the community, and a new homeownership program.

In advance of the Forum, Hawa Dumbuya-Sesay, Executive Director of YWCA NWT, and PlanIt North supported discussions about a women and children's Safe Home project in the community. Funded through Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada, YWCA is implementing a pilot Safe Homes project in three NWT communities, and has partnered with Fort Good Hope as one of these communities. This aligns well with KGHS's Strategic Plan, as developing a continuum of support for women and children is listed as a priority. YWCA is also working with the community to improve short-term options for women experiencing violence in their homes, while KGHS, with support from PlanIt North, is applying for funding for a new, permanent women and children's safe home.

The Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories, Paulie Chinna, visited Fort Good Hope to meet with community leaders, KGHS, and the local housing organization. Facilitated by PlanIt North, the discussion focused on ways that Housing NWT can sustain and strengthen its current support of community housing projects.



Photos: Korry Garvey



PLANIT NORTH is a professional planning firm located wholly in Canada's North. For more information, or to discuss how we can help you with your planning needs, please email info@planitnorth.ca