

NEN' EL TUU

The CVTC Tribal Response Program Newsletter

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NTS'E BA HNIYAES?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Bede nt'anaen?

Who is this?

Ltsoghi Tl'ogh:

Brownfields

Ts'idahwdez'aan:

They straightened things
out by talking.

Di'tninilc'uux:

Warm yourself up inside!

Łufts'ikalaet

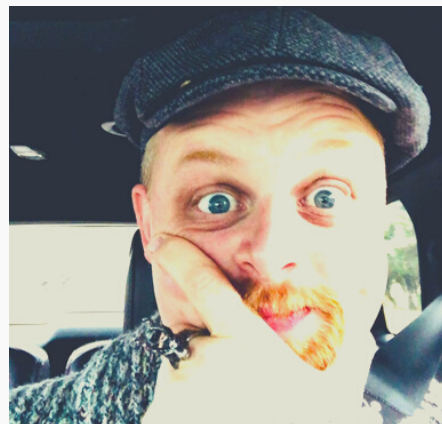
"The wind is blowing things around."

BEDE NT'AENEN? WHO IS THIS?

Ugheli dzaen! Nts'e doht'ae? Richard Chiolero s'uze' dilaen. Sacramento Kayax ts'iinsyaa den. Nuutah izdaa k'adii. Nay'dini'aa' Na' Kayax gga hwghezna. (Hello! How are you? My name is Richard Chiolero. I am from Sacramento. I am now living in Palmer. I work for Chickaloon Native Village.)

I'm the Tribal Response Program Coordinator at Chickaloon Village Traditional Council. "Tribal Response" makes it sound like I have a job that involves driving a car with a siren, right? Well, what I really do is find ways to clean up and reuse contaminated property. It might not sound exciting, but it's super important. In fact, I'm here for community members just like you! Think of me as your friendly, neighborhood contaminated sites manager who wants to partner with you to keep our lands and waters clean.

When I'm not out and about looking for contaminated sites, chatting, or teaching people about the EPA's Tribal Response Program, you can usually find me hanging out with the bat-pig at right. (She's actually a French bulldog. We adopted her when she was six. She's super passionate about being outside.)



Gannen tu Richard.



Ganni tu Crash.



A recently exposed oil drum
along Moose Creek.

LTSOGHI TL'OGH: BROWNFIELDS

I started this newsletter because I want people to feel comfortable reaching out to someone when they see something out there that just isn't right. Take the oil drum in the picture, for example. Before the rains last fall, there was a tree growing over it. I walked past it many times not even knowing it was there until the tree fell over! I have a lot of questions: how long has this drum been here? What was inside? Are there more of them? Maybe you have a similar story. Maybe an Elder knows of a place like this.

I would really like to work together to find these places and then make a plan. No one wants to drink dirty water or eat fish filled with chemicals. Property where there have been spilled chemicals (or where people think there might have been spilled chemicals) are called 'brownfields.' The good news is that there's money out there to deal with them. It's kind-of a complicated process, but that's why I'm around: to help figure these things out!

TS'IDAHWDEZ'AAN: THEY STRAIGHTENED THINGS OUT BY TALKING.

One of the things I most enjoy about my position is getting out into the community and talking to people! Part of the Tribal Response Program is giving the community information about brownfields and spill prevention. By working together, we can find potential brownfield sites and get their locations recorded. Then we can come together as a group and decide how we want to reuse them. The final steps are making sure that they get tested ("assessed") and then cleaned up.



The Palmer Kiwanis Club invited me to talk about brownfields.



There is a common misconception about people who do my job: we're working with the federal government and so we can't be trusted. Let me clear things up by telling you a little bit about what I do and how my job is funded.

I am employed by the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council. This means that I work for Chickaloon Native Village: a federally recognized Tribe and sovereign Tribal government in its own right. The Tribe, and by extension Tribal Citizens, are my employers. My position is funded through the EPA Brownfields Program. This program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, Tribes and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. Therefore, I'm here to serve the entire community which fall within Chickaloon Native Village's traditional territories, including Chickaloon, Sutton, Palmer, and Butte.

I must keep a public record of sites where cleanup actions have occurred in the past year or where they are planned in the coming year. However, documenting *potentially* contaminated sites into a Tribal inventory is something that's between you and me. Tribal and Community Councils will prioritize contaminated sites, and then we can work on getting the funding to clean them up for reuse. So don't be shy: let me know if you see things that aren't right!

DI'TNINILC'UUX: WARM YOURSELF UP INSIDE!



It's the time of year where we're all trying to stay warm, and for a lot of us that means making sure that our heating oil tank is filled. Heating oil is expensive, so it's important to make sure it stays in the tank. This saves us money and makes sure that our water stays safe to drink. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) has some great pointers on their website. (Find them here: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/prevention-preparedness/hho-tanks/>)

In particular:

- Keep track of your fuel consumption each month. If your bill is increasing, you may have a leak.
- Make sure there are no stains or diesel odors on the ground around your tank.
- Have your tank routinely inspected, especially if it's more than five (5) years old.



@brownfieldbear

SLAAGHE DELA DEZENDA? CAN YOU HELP?

Curious about the Tribal Response Program? Wanna talk about brownfields or have me do a presentation? Got an idea for an article you'd like to see? I'd love to hear from you!

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