

Yukon First
Nations
Citizenship



Grade

5



Yukon First Nations Citizenship

First Nation Programs and Partnerships Unit
Yukon Department of Education
Yukon First Nation Curriculum Working Group
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CONTENTS

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CITIZENSHIP

Title Page	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Elders Page	1
You Will Learn About	2
A. Citizenship	3
B. Self	4
C. Family	5
D. Clan	5
E. Yukon First Nations	6
F. Summary	7
Sharing Circle	8
Check What You Have Learned	9
Glossary	10

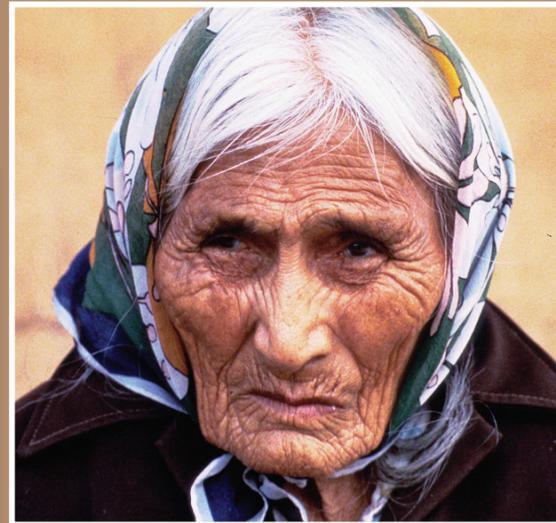


YUKON FIRST NATION CITIZENSHIP

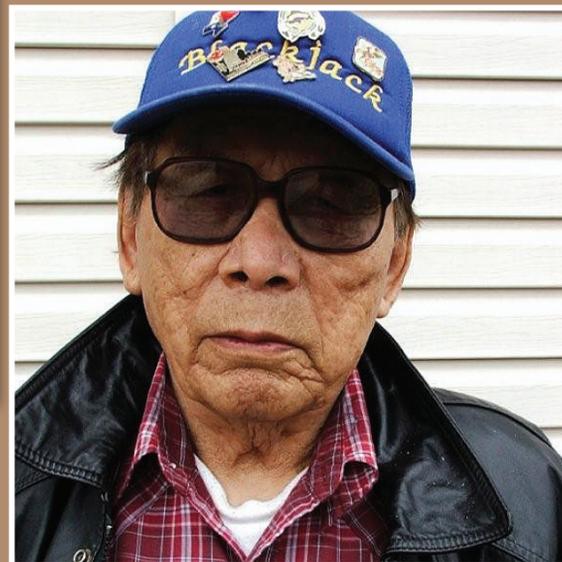
*"Our people have many deep feelings about our land."
from Together Today for our Children Tomorrow*



**Mrs. Rose (Dèyík Tlá) & Mr. David (łtàdutin) Johnston,
Elders, Teslin Tlingit Council**



**Violet McGundy, Theya Me (Eagle Woman)
Northern Tutchone, Elder,
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation**



**Roddy Blackjack, Elder,
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation**

You Will Learn About

- different kinds of citizenship
- Yukon First Nations citizenship
- the rights of citizens
- the responsibilities of citizens
- the connection between rights and responsibilities
- traditional First Nations laws and values
- individual rights and responsibilities
- family rights and responsibilities
- clan rights and responsibilities
- First Nations rights and responsibilities
- good leadership



**Bonnie Jean Joe, Kluane First Nation and
Students from Hidden Valley School**

A. CITIZENSHIP

The word “**citizen**” is the root of **citizenship**. A citizen is a member of a nation. All Canadian citizens are members of the **nation** of Canada. Yukon **First Nations** are also citizens of the First Nations in the Yukon.

All citizens have **rights** and **responsibilities**. This is called citizenship. A right is something people are allowed to do. For instance, all children have the right to go to school. Responsibilities are things people are expected to do. For instance, children have a responsibility to listen and learn at school. Rights and responsibilities go together.

Yukon First Nations have **traditional laws** and **values**.

Traditional First Nations **laws** and **values** are important. They explain how to live as a First Nations person. They explain how to live well on the land and with the animals. They help First Nations live within their family, their **clan**, their **community** and the world.

Traditional laws and values explain the rights of Yukon First Nations. First Nations have a right to self-government. First Nations also have the right to use traditional land for food, clothing and **shelter**.

Traditional laws and values **protect First Nation** citizens from harm. They are there to help keep First Nations healthy and safe.

With rights come responsibilities. For example, Yukon First Nations have certain rights to the land, but they also have the responsibility to care for that land.



Kathleen Lake, YTG Photo



Did you know?
The term First Nation replaced the word 'Indian' in the early 1980's. It also replaces the word 'band' when we are talking about a group of First Nation people.

William Peter building moosehide boat, Ross River, Tom and Shirley Connolly Fonds 82/343 #6, Yukon Archives

B. SELF

You are a **unique** person. No one else is like you. You have a special place in your community and the world. You learn your values from your family and community.

These are some of your rights as a family member:

- the right to be cared for;
- the right to be healthy;
- the right to play and have fun;
- the right to be warm;
- the right to sleep comfortably;
- the right to be safe at all times;

- the right to **express** your thoughts;
 - the right to share your feelings with others;
 - the right to tell your problems to your family; and
 - the right to **respect** yourself and others.
- With those rights come responsibilities to yourself and your family. Clan members also have responsibilities to their clan. There are rules to follow. When you follow your family's rules you respect yourself. You are part of your family and your community.



Ross River School Students at year end celebration 2007. Photographer, Fran Etzel



C. FAMILY

Every child is a member of a family. Families can be different but they have similar needs. Family members have responsibilities to one another.

Yukon First Nations are matrilineal. Yukon First Nations children have a family responsibility to their mother's clan. They are also responsible to their father's people.

Clan brothers and sisters belong to the same clan. Clan members care for each other. They need to get along well with each other, and they also need to get along with the other clans' members.

Yukon First Nations families have rights to certain parts of the land. These rights come from their parents or grandparents. Yukon First Nations have rights to clan names, stories, songs, dances and **symbols**. Yukon First Nations are the **carriers of clan traditions**.

Yukon First Nations help their clan family when they keep up clan **traditions**. Traditions help make their clan family respectful citizens. First Nations citizens pass on family traditions and **history**.

D. CLAN

These are some of a clan member's rights and responsibilities:

- the right to speak to **clan leaders** regarding their concerns;
- the right to **harvest** from **traditional land**;
- the responsibility to protect traditional land;
- the right to make harvesting rules;
- the responsibility to **host** potlatches to pass on family names; and
- the responsibility to teach stories and songs to young people.

Clan members are also responsible to members of the **opposite clan**.

Clan leaders are responsible for all of their clan members. They lead by listening and giving good advice.



Jim, Dolores and Lisa Anderson, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hän Nation

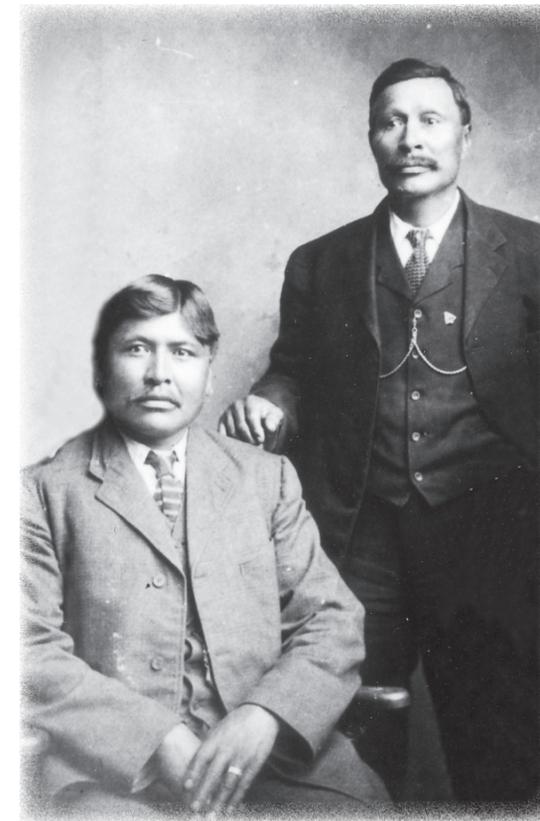
E. YUKON FIRST NATIONS

A Yukon **First Nation** includes families and clans. A First Nation is responsible for all its members. The leaders are responsible for taking good care of all the citizens in their nation.

In First Nations where there are many clans, each clan has a leader. All the clan leaders must work together to agree. The leaders are responsible for taking care of their citizens.

Leaders of a nation need to make good decisions for everyone. That is what a **government** does.

Good leaders take their responsibilities seriously. They make sure every citizen has rights. The rights are to protect each person. Good leaders help people keep their responsibilities to their nation.



Chief Jim Boss, Ta'an Kwach'an Council, Skookum Jim, Tagish Kwaan Nation, Rev. W.G. Blackwell Collection 91/38, #2, Yukon Archives



Chief Isaac, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hän Nation, 1924, Claude and Mary Tidd fonds #728, Yukon Archives

F. SUMMARY

All citizens have rights and responsibilities.

Rights are things a person is allowed to do. Responsibilities are things a person should do. Whenever there is a right, a responsibility goes with it.

The citizens of Yukon First Nations have certain rights and responsibilities. Yukon First Nations family rights come from a mother's clan. There are rights to land for clan use and clan traditions. Clan members treat each other as brothers and sisters. Clan members should help members of their own clan and the other clans, especially the elders.

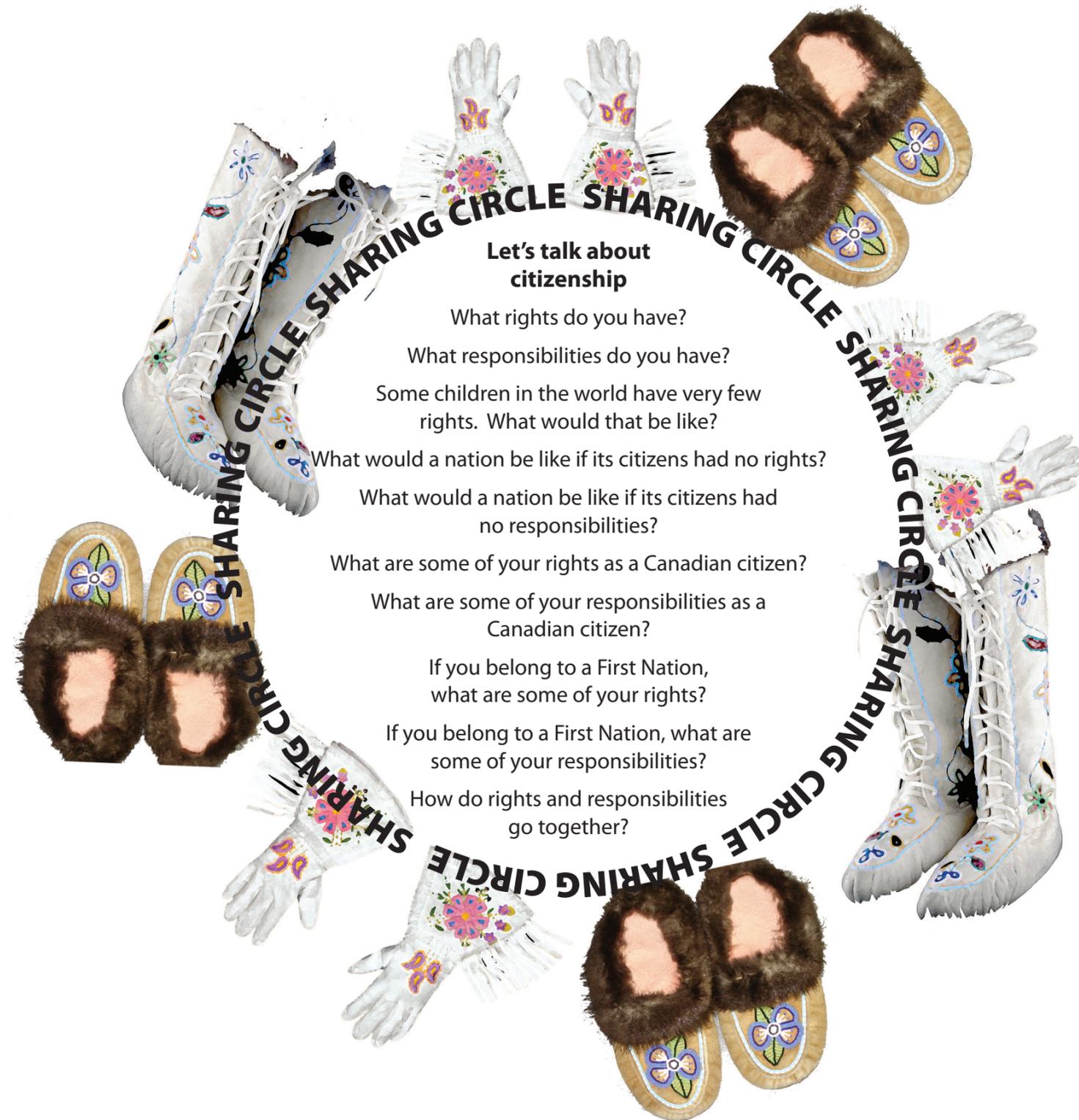
Yukon First Nations leaders take their responsibilities very seriously. They help all Yukon First Nations understand their rights and responsibilities.



Judy Gingill is a member of Kwanlin Dün First Nation. She was the first aboriginal Commissioner of the Yukon government from 1995 to 2000. YTG photo



Andy Carvill, Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations 2007. Citizen of Carcross Tagish First Nation. Cathie Archbould photo



Gauntlets 1987.10.2 and Mukluks, 1987.10.1, McBride Museum Collection, YTG Photos; Moccasins, Irene Smith, Elder, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Check What You Have Learned



- Citizenship means the rights and responsibilities you have as a citizen.
- All Canadian citizens are members of the nation of Canada.
- Yukon First Nations people are citizens of First Nations.
- Traditional laws and values explain the rights and responsibilities of Yukon First Nations citizenship.
- Traditional laws and values teach Yukon First Nations citizens how to live well on the land, with the animals, with each other, with the community and in the world.
- Yukon First Nations have a right to self-government and use of their traditional lands.
- Traditional laws and values protect First Nations from harm.
- Traditional laws and values are for health and safety.
- Children have rights and responsibilities as family members.
- Family members have responsibilities to one another.
- Yukon First Nations have clan rights and responsibilities.
- Yukon First Nations children are responsible to their mother's clan and their father's people.
- Clan members have clan rights and responsibilities.
- Clan leaders are responsible for their clan members.
- A Yukon First Nation includes families, clans and community.

Student from Ross River school holding high top canvas mukluk sewing project, Photographer Fran Etzel

GLOSSARY

Carriers of clan tradition

- people who teach clan customs
- Our Elders are carriers of clan tradition.*

Citizen

- a member of a community or a nation
- Francis is a citizen of Liard First Nation. She is also a citizen of Watson Lake, Yukon and Canada.*

Citizenship

- a citizen's rights and responsibilities
- It is good citizenship to help Elders in the community.*

Clan

- a large group of people from the same family
- a group of people who have a common ancestor
- a moiety
- I belong to the Wolf clan because my mother is from the Wolf clan.*

Clan leader

- the person who speaks for the members of a clan
- Our clan leader listens to us and helps us solve our problems.*

Community

- a group of people who live in the same area
- a group of people who have an interest in common
- Many people in our community like to fish in the summer.*
- Our school community wants to make our school safe for all the children.*

Express

- show your thoughts and feelings
- to tell your thoughts and feelings
- When I hug my Grandmother, I express my love and respect for her.*
- When we have a circle discussion, I express my ideas.*

First Nation

- a community of people who have First Nations ancestry
- The Selkirk First Nation is in Pelly Crossing.*

First Nations

- the first people to occupy and live on lands of Canada
- There were First Nations in the Yukon over 30,000 years ago.*
- Grandma May told me an old Yukon First Nations story.*

Government

- the leadership of a community, province, or nation
- Chief and Council lead First Nation governments.*

Harvest

- to gather plants and berries for food
- After we harvest the blueberries my mother is going to make jam.*

History

- everything that has happened in the past
- I can learn about the history of Burwash from my Grandfather.*

Host

- a person who entertains guests
- Our host served tea, bannock and smoked salmon at his party.*
- The Crow clan will host a potlatch for our Grandmother who was a Crow.*

Laws

- a set of rules that explain how to live in peace and harmony
- Yukon First Nations have many laws. An example would be laws on marriage.*

Nation

- a group of people with their own government
- Na-cho Nyak Dun is a nation in the Yukon.*

Opposite clan

- within Yukon First Nations, it is your father's clan or moiety
- The Wolf clan is the opposite clan to the Crow clan.*

Protect

- keep safe.
- These mittens will protect your hands from the cold.*

Respect

- to take very good care of
- to show responsibility towards
- We respect our Elders because they teach us many important things.*

Responsibilities

- things you are expected to do
- All children have responsibilities to their family. They can help their families in many ways.*

Rights

- things you are entitled to
- Everyone in the world has the right to have enough food.*

Shelter

- a place that gives protection from weather or danger
- We had to find shelter before the weather turned very cold.*

Symbol

- an object or picture used to stand for something
- The feather is a symbol of honesty.*

Tradition

- following beliefs and customs that are handed down
- the handing down of beliefs and customs from parents to children
- In some First Nations it is tradition to serve the Elders first.*
- Tradition is very important to Yukon First Nations.*

Traditional laws

- laws from long ago
- laws a group of people follow because it is their custom
- Yukon First Nation traditional laws teach you to treat one another with respect.*

Traditional Land

- land that a First Nation has always used for hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering food
- My family travels to our fish camp in the summer. It is in our traditional land.*

Traditions

- customs, beliefs and ways of doing things
- My grandparents teach me many of our family traditions. I want to pass these traditions on to my children.*

Unique

- the only one of its kind
- nothing else is the same
- My aunt made this blanket. It is unique.*

Values

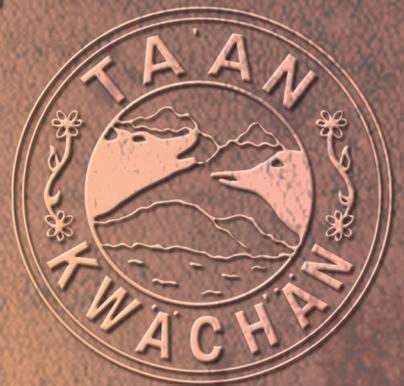
- moral code
- ways of thinking about behaviour
- We learn our values from our parents and grandparents.*



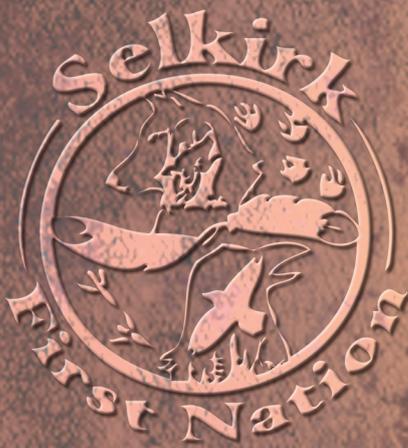
CHAMPAGNE and AISHIHIK First Nations



CARCROSS/TAGISH
FIRST NATION



VUNTUT GWITCHIN
GOVERNMENT



TESLIN TLINGIT COUNCIL

