

## COMMUNITY

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### FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYAK DUN MEMORIAL BLANKET

THIS SUMMER, VICTORIA GOLD WAS PRIVILEGED TO PROVIDE FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYAK DUN CITIZEN VELMA OLSEN WITH \$1500 TO SUPPORT HER STUNNING AND MOVING *FOR THE CHILDREN LOST* BLANKET, which pays homage to the unmarked graves found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in May.

Velma, who was born and raised in the Village of Mayo, is the daughter of a residential school survivor and the proud mother of two grown children. An artist and crafter, she is drawn to her mother's passion for beading and preserving the art form's importance for future generations.

"My reason for starting the *For the Children Lost* blanket was to honour all the children who were taken and never made it home," says Velma. "As a mother, my heart broke. Not only for the children, but for the mother's arms they were taken from. In my mind, I searched for a way to respect these children and I thought that moccasin tops would be so fitting."

Velma posted a call out through social media for baby moccasin tops (vamps) and received an overwhelming response from people all across Canada and into the U.S. She then set to work to create a large blanket with each moccasin top sewn into it.

"It took me about three months to create but I completed it! 404 vamps sewn down with love and care," continues Velma. "I was so proud to be able to fly to Kamloops and present the memorial blanket to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation in memory of the 215 children lost at the former residential school there."



First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun citizen Velma Olsen with her *For the Children Lost* blanket, which pays homage to the unmarked graves found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in May.

### VICTORIA GOLD IS PROUD TO HAVE YUKONERS AT WORK

IF YOU ARE A YUKONER WITH MINING EXPERIENCE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONNECT WITH US.

Victoria is currently hiring tradespeople, equipment operators, process/crusher operators and other positions to work at the Eagle Gold Mine. Visit the "Work For Us" page on our website at [vgcx.com/contact/work-for-us/](http://vgcx.com/contact/work-for-us/) and send your resume to [greatpeoplework@vgcx.com](mailto:greatpeoplework@vgcx.com).

### ABOUT VICTORIA GOLD & THE EAGLE GOLD MINE

The Eagle Gold Mine, now in production, is part of Victoria's 100-per cent-owned Dublin Gulch Property located approximately 375 kilometres north of Whitehorse and 85 kilometres north, northeast of the Village of Mayo within the traditional territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun. The property is accessible by road year-round and is connected to Yukon Energy Corp's electrical grid. The mine is a significant contributor to the Yukon economy employing 350-400 people.

