



THE FIRST PEOPLE'S PERFORMANCES / DAKHKÁ KHWÁAN DANCERS



First People's Performances / Dakhká

Khwáan Dancers began as a dream to bring together a group of drummers, singers and dancers who share a deep passion to sing the songs of their ancestors, and live close to the traditional teachings and ways of the Indigenous peoples of the Yukon Territory.

The group came into existence in 2007 and is based in Carcross, Yukon – a small northern community located fifty miles inland from the Alaskan coast. Performers come from the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council, and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation; the common thread among the group is their Inland Tlingit Ancestry.

Comprised of up to twenty dancers, they began performing in a local Carcross Theatre set up for the thousands of visitors who come to the community each year. By the end of that summer season, they realized they had laid a solid foundation for an ongoing dance group.

Now, only a few years later, they have built a performing ensemble committed to traditional and authentic dance, song, drumming and the interpretation of their legends through storytelling and theatre.

With a focus on cultural revitalization and social transformation within the community, the First People's Performances / Dakhká Khwáan Dancers find strength and empowerment through performance, and reclaim their traditional values through song and dance.

Performing at festivals and celebrations throughout the Yukon, Alaska and Canada, the First People's Performances / Dakhká Khwáan Dancers acknowledge and honour their elders who have provided guidance, support and traditional teaching to members of the group over the years.