



TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN DANCERS



The **Ta'an Kwäch'än Dancers** have existed in various incarnations for fifteen years, after several people met to revitalize the dances of the Ta'an. Comprised of adults and children, the current 15-member line-up has been performing intensively for the last three years. They perform traditional songs and dances while wearing traditional regalia.

Elders George Dawson, Annie Ned and Angela Sidney mentored the original dancers, passing on the dances and songs that are at the core of Southern Tutchone culture. Today, the older dancers use this knowledge to mentor the younger generation of Ta'an Kwäch'än Dancers. In performance, the group leaders explain the significance of each song and its origins in the Southern Tutchone culture.

The inclusion of older adults and youth brings a unique community element to their performances, and is a way to pass on their traditions. According to member William Jones, through the Ta'an Kwäch'än Dancers they are "showing our pride in our traditions, providing a positive outlet for our youth to learn about their culture, and passing on the voices of the elders throughout the generations."

The Dancers are inspired to learn and perform for the love of their culture, to honour their elders' teachings, and to ensure that the next generations carry on these traditions. Beyond the community, this dance group wants to share their dance traditions with other people in order to teach them about Southern Tutchone culture and to express pride in themselves.