

# Tagé Cho Hudän Interpretive Centre

## Carmacks

**Started:** Idea first developed in 1988, official opening in 1997

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The interpretive centre is a showcase for Carmack's Northern Tutchone culture. It has eight outdoor displays such as a fish cache, a pole house, and the Yukon's only model of a mammoth snare. Inside there are a variety of interpretive exhibits on the Northern Tutchone people and their way of life.

**Community benefits:** The positive display of Northern Tutchone culture has helped increase the self-esteem and pride of many community members. It has served to create a better understanding of the local First Nation culture for both visitors and locals. By drawing in tourists, the centre has economic spin-offs, particularly through the sale of crafts at the adjoining gift store. Initial building renovations, the development of the exhibits, and ongoing summer projects have also provided local employment.

**Lessons learned:** Getting funding for the ongoing operations of the centre has been the biggest challenge—one that has not been overcome. Following what local people wanted rather than designs from elsewhere, has proven to be



an effective approach. Developing professional exhibits is also considered critical to creating a space that people will be interested in.

**Future of the project:** The centre will continue to look for operational support. In the meantime, it continues to run on a project by project basis. It has developed a mobile exhibit that will help promote the Northern Tutchone culture in Canada and other countries (arrangements for a trip to Austria is in the works). The centre plans to develop a communications package including a web page, booklet and poster. Starting a café in the building is also a goal.