

## ***GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 1994-95***



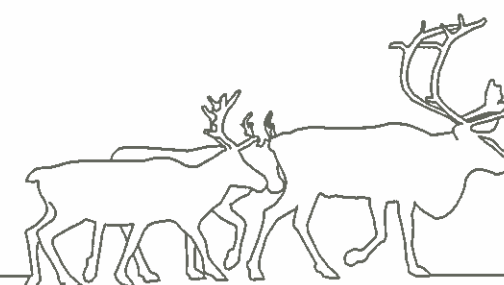
*Tl'oondih Healing Camp was constructed during 1994 and 1995 by Tetlit Zheh Construction. Established by a mandate from the 1993 Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual General Assembly, Tl'oondih recently began operations under the auspices of the Gwich'in Healing Society.*

*Photos by Robert A. Alexie.*

*Gwich'in land, culture & economy for a better future*

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## President's Message – Willard Hagen



Photo by Walter Firth

I am now halfway through a third term as President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the past year has been very productive for our organization. While implementing our land claim agreement remains a major focus, my involvement with our business and cultural organizations also continues to increase.

As you can tell from the many sections of this report, we have many dedicated people working together for the Gwich'in Nation, proving themselves leaders in fields as diverse as construction, computer graphics, promotion of our Gwich'in language, and strengthening of personal values.

In the four communities, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Councils are representing the interests of traditional harvesters, ensuring that their knowledge of the wealth of our land is respected. The Gwich'in Land Administration has addressed applications for the use of Gwich'in

lands, and has supervised the registration of surveys and legal title to our lands.

Three land claim management boards – Enrollment, Interim Land Use Planning, and Renewable Resources Boards – are now staffed and carrying out their responsibilities. We have also been working on legislation needed to establish the Environmental Impact Review Board, Land & Water Board, and the permanent Land Use Planning Board.

Our land claim agreement includes a framework for additional self-government negotiations. After a recent meeting with the Minister of Indian Affairs, we have assurances that government will appoint a negotiator and will fund this work. We are also working with the Inuvialuit and with local municipalities to promote local control of education, social services, health care, and the administration of justice.

The Board of Education has transferred control of the Gwich'in Language Centre to the Tribal Council. The Centre complements the work of the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute, in documenting Gwich'in place names and oral history, and bringing this culture into the educational system for coming generations.

While we work with government to improve health and social services programs, we have also established the Gwich'in Healing Camp at Tl'oondih, on the Peel River twenty miles upriver from Fort McPherson. This fine facility, built by Tetlit Zheh Construction, will strengthen Gwich'in individuals and families. The healing program, which is unique in the Territories, answers a need expressed by our Annual General Assemblies in recent years.

Our training programs provide academic assistance as well as on-the-job training to Gwich'in with diverse interests and skills. Many beneficiaries of these programs are now working in our own organizations. Our construction company has become one of the biggest in the region, completing projects in our communities as well as in Yellowknife. For our work with computer graphics and satellite remote sensing, we are recognized across the continent for leadership in applying high technology to the protection of our lands.

By promoting education at all levels, we will ensure that our nation grows stronger with each generation.

The Annual General Assembly is a good time to reflect on a busy year, and to take direction from the delegates for the coming year. On behalf of the Gwich'in Tribal Council executive, board of directors, and staff, I would like to say congratulations to all our people – keep up the good work!

Massi cho.

Willard Hagen

## Vice President's Message – Robert A. Alexie

I have been involved with the Gwich'in Tribal Council since 1989 when I was the Chief of the Tetlit Gwich'in, and later as the Chief Negotiator of the Gwich'in Claim.

I am currently half way through my second term as Vice President and still going, and going, and going, and...

Working for the Tribal Council over the last few years has been quite a challenge – a challenge I enjoy and take great pride in doing.

There are times when it is difficult to get things done or when the work gets too demanding, but I chalk this up to experience and move on.

I work out of the Fort McPherson offices and it is part of my responsibility to oversee and administer the day to day activities of the Tribal Council.

I am also the President of the Gwich'in Development Corporation. It is my role to ensure that our businesses are efficient, economic and feasible.

I have the assistance and experience of people like James B. Firth, Willard Hagen, Dolly Carmichael, Greg Cayen and Wanda McDonald. This makes the job easier and more enjoyable.

In the last year, we have taken on many new projects, which are discussed under the Gwich'in Development Corporation in this Annual Report.

I am also the Chair of the Gwich'in Healing Society, which is responsible for the Tl'oondih Camp and the Gwich'in Healing Program.

This project started back in 1993 and has progressed to the point where the first full program started on June 19.



Photo by Walter Firth

We have assembled a team of professional people who are committed to the project and seeing it succeed – people like Doug Smith, Lloyd MacDonald, Michael Hartmann, Jennifer Chalmers-MacDonald, Darlene Koe and the rest of the staff up at Tl'oondih.

This program is unique in Canada in that it focuses on the family and not the individual. We have had many calls from people all over the north and the rest of Canada who are interested in attending, or who are looking for information on the program.

I have high expectations for the

Healing Program and faith in the people we have assembled to oversee the program. I am also realistic. It will take a great deal more work to see this through the next few years.

Over the next year, I will continue to devote a lot of my time to the Gwich'in Healing Program and its continued operation. I also hope to see the Development Corporation take a more active and aggressive role in the development of the north and to look at new businesses in the rest of Canada and elsewhere.

Robert A. Alexie



# Vice-President's Message – Dolly Carmichael

During the past year I have been working with the Renewable Resource Councils, and the Gwich'in Land Administration. I have assisted in preparing financial statements, accessing government funding, and dealing with renewable resource issues that affect our settlement area. We have been working on the Gwich'in/Inuvialuit Overlap Agreement, access on Gwich'in Lands, Gwich'in Territorial Park, tourism, the Caribou River site clean-up, Harvesters Assistance Plan, and other activities relating to land use.

On educational concerns, I have been working with Arctic College, tourism representatives, GNWT Department of Economic Development and Tourism, GNWT Department of Advanced Education, and the Pathways To Success chairperson to ensure that programs meet the needs of our region. We are presently looking into distant education, using computer video and new technology and techniques. I am also an advisor to the Gwich'in Scholarship Committee. We are planning improvements to the program by setting specific scholarships for business and financial studies, trades and apprenticeships programs, and other disciplines.

I participated in the Constitutional Conference held in Yellowknife in January, the Gwich'in Youth Conference held in Fort McPherson in February, the Environmental Assessment and Caribou River Clean-up meeting in Whitehorse, the Ehdiiat Gwich'in Council mini-Assembly in April, and Tetlit Gwich'in Council Community Assembly in May.

As an executive of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and a director of the Gwich'in Development Corporation



Photo by Brian Mitchell

and their subsidiaries, I participate in monthly board meetings, keep up with current business activities, and assist in some day to day operations when Robert A. Alexie is not available.

As a member of the Gwich'in Enrolment Board, I attend one meeting per month to accept eligible people for enrolment in our claim.

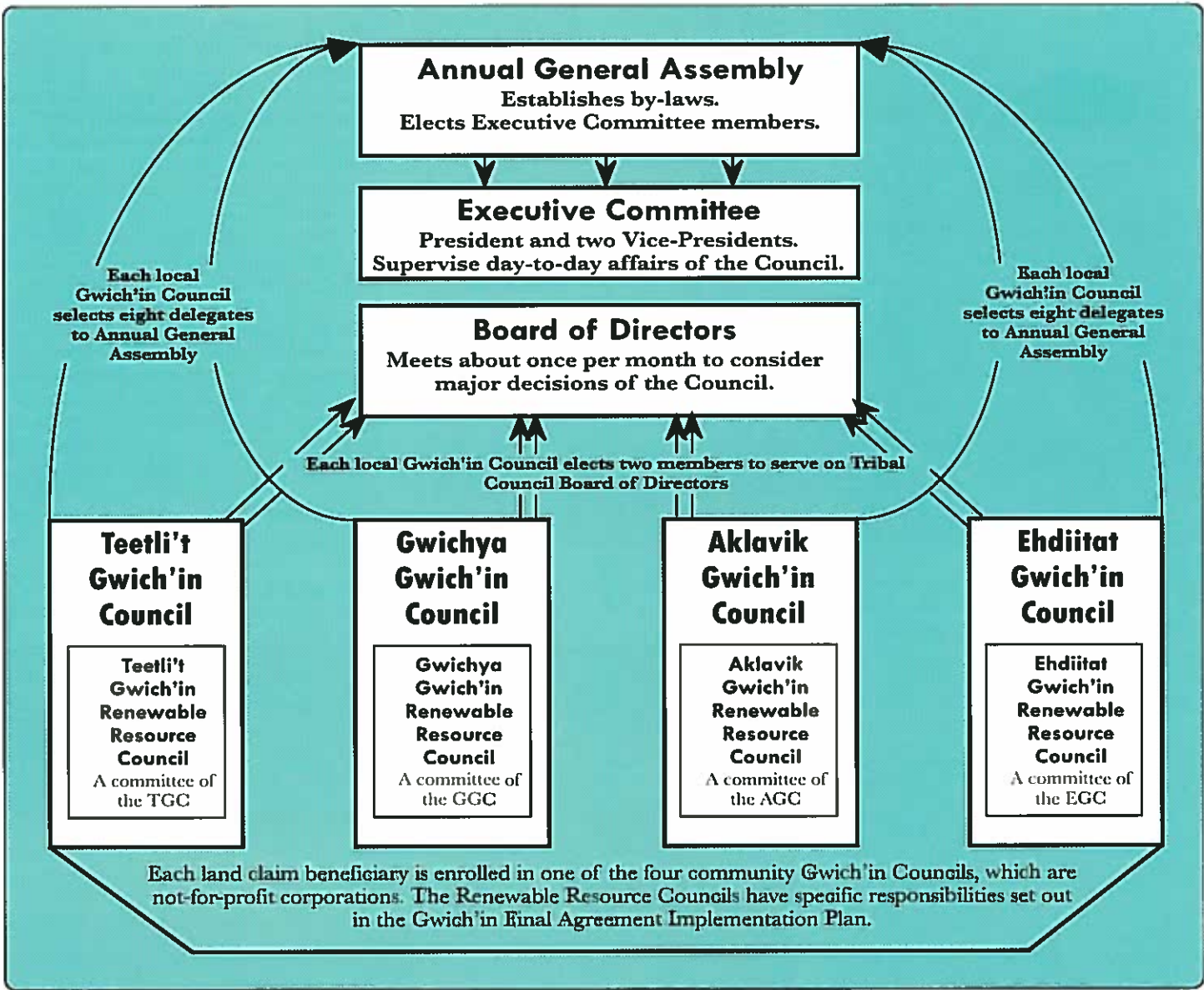
Over the past year I have also been attending school part time, working towards a degree in Aboriginal Management. I have now completed my second year and will receive my diploma this fall. I will be continuing my education through correspondence with Athabaska

University and plan on receiving my degree next year.

I thank everyone for the support I received over the year and plan on taking on more activities in the next year.

Dolly Carmichael

# Gwich'in Tribal Council – Governing Structure



## Chiefs and councils as of March 31, 1995:

### Teetli't Gwich'in Council

Joe Charlie, Chief  
Robert Alexie Sr., Sub-Chief  
Gladys Alexie  
Wanda Pascal  
Betty Firth  
Ernest Firth, James Martin  
James André  
Mary Teya  
Richard Martin

### Gwichya Gwich'in Council

Grace Blake, Chief  
Alestine André, Sub-Chief  
Noel André  
James Cardinal  
Julie Ann André  
Peter Ross

### Aklavik Gwich'in Council

Freddie Greenland, Chief  
Charlie Furlong, Sub-Chief  
Henry Jerome  
Eddy McLeod  
Elizabeth Kunnizzie  
James Gardlund  
Joe Benoit

### Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council

James Firth, Chief  
Barry Greenland, Sub-Chief  
Dolly Carmichael  
Robert Charlie  
Elizabeth Hansen  
Neil Firth  
Robert Bourque  
Tom Wright



## Aklavik Gwich'in Council

The Aklavik Gwich'in Council has been very busy over the past year, dealing with many issues that will have an effect on the community, particularly in the area of community transfers and self-government. These issues are handled by the Aklavik Aboriginal Committee, which has members from the Aklavik Gwich'in Council, the Aklavik Community Corporation, and the Hamlet of Aklavik.

The Committee has recently been allocated the position of Economic Development and it is hoped that the position will be filled by the summer of 1995.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Committee also has a Renewable Resource Officer who works closely with the Aklavik Renewable Resources Council (RRC) and the Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC).

A Protocol Agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories has been signed for all capital projects planned for Aklavik. The Aklavik Aboriginal Committee has the right of first refusal before the Government can consider tendering. Training opportunities can often arise from these projects, in the form of apprenticeships.

A variety of other projects are underway. The Committee is negotiating to take over the management and operation of the Joe Greenland Centre and more permanent jobs are being sought at the centre. Additional services are also being designed to assist the elders.

Consideration is also being given to the restructuring of the Hamlet Council, so that both the Aklavik Community Corporation and the Aklavik Gwich'in Council would have permanent seats on the Council. The Mayor and two councilors would still be elected by the entire community. This proposal received strong support from the community during the municipal elections that were held in December of 1994.

The Aklavik Gwich'in Council sponsored a project called "Investing in People". With the objective of introducing welfare recipients to the work force, the project was designed to instill self-confidence and to teach valuable job skills. The program has been very successful for the 15 or so individuals that have taken part. These clients are working in a variety of places within the community. This year the program has

added Life Skills courses and a new course for those students who wish to pursue a college certificate in cooking.

A variety of employment opportunities are under development. A proposal has been submitted for a summer youth program and, if the application is successful, there will be summer employment opportunities for students. Housing construction will take place again, which will include on-the-job training for some local residents. In addition, a planned tourism centre for the summer will also provide job opportunities in Aklavik.

The Aklavik Indian Band and Métis Local have formed a new company called the "Black Mountain Development Corporation", and this company will provide services and economic benefits for the community.

This year the Aklavik Aboriginal Committee moved to a new building, owned by the Aklavik Indian Band and the Métis Local. The new building has been named, "The Chief Andrew Stewart

Building."

After many years of negotiations with the GNWT, the Gwich'in and Métis Nations of Aklavik have been able to convince the GNWT to establish a fund to provide additional health benefits.

There are many indications that additional government programs will eventually be transferred to the communities and to the proposed Regional Government. Therefore it is essential that community leaders in Aklavik continue to work cooperatively and in the best interests of the entire community.

During the past year there has been outstanding cooperation between the Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit in Aklavik. This spirit of cooperation will continue to generate further opportunities and progress for the community.

**Charlie Furlong, 1994-95**  
**Aklavik Community Co-ordinator**



*The Aklavik Renewable Resources Council is conducting a forest inventory on lands near the community. This satellite image of the Mackenzie Delta, produced primarily from infrared light sensors, is presented in a colour scheme often used by scientists to distinguish different forest types.*

## Gwichya Gwich'in Council

During the past two years our efforts have concentrated on reorganization. We have evaluated staff training, our financial situation, and many other aspects of our organization.

We are now developing a strategic plan that will be a guide to our future. In developing this plan, our traditional values will play an important role in identifying and meeting our long-term goals. Our objectives include increased education and training opportunities for our people, as well as developing traditionally-based employment opportunities. The ultimate goals and objectives of the Gwichya Gwich'in are to achieve recognition as a distinct people, capable of working at the same level with other Gwich'in first nations, building partnerships in the best interests of all. Jobs through organizational development or self-employment are of the utmost importance to bring our people to a state where a smooth transition into self-government may occur.

In a small community such as Tsiigehtchic, economic development opportunities are very limited. We must utilize our resources wisely and take advantage of all potential opportunities. We must also stress to other organizations that because of our size and location we are limited in what we can and want to do, and that proper short-term and long-term planning by the community is essential.

Our Designated Gwich'in Council, elected in August, 1994, has worked diligently with the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of Northwest Territories, in the areas of economic development, education/culture/training, self-government, renewable resources, health, social service and justice issues.

We are looking forward to the challenges that face us all. We believe that strength lies in unity. We must all work in solidarity for a better future.

**Chief Grace Blake, Gwichya**  
**Gwich'in Council, Tsiigehtchic**



*The Band Store building in Tsiigehtchic also contains the Hilltop Cafe, the office of the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council, and staff apartments. The project was constructed by Tellit Zheh Construction, and is owned and operated by Arctic Red River Band Inc.*

Photo by Walter Firth



*Hyacinthe André and Noel André recording their stories on top of Church Hill in Tsiigehtchic. The video footage was taken in 1994 as part of an ethno-archaeological documentary of the Arctic Red River area.*

Photo by Sheila Greer



Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council

The Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council operates a number of organizations and services in the Inuvik region, including Tepee Housing, Chii Construction Services Ltd., and the Fine Options Program. Tepee operates an apartment building for the Canada Mortgage Housing Commission, on a rent-geared-to-income basis. Chii provides employment opportunities to approximately two dozen of our members, working in highway maintenance, park maintenance, brush-cutting, and provision of firewood and pilings. The Fine Options Program arranges community service assignments in place of monetary fines or incarceration.

The publication of the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Newsletter is also one of the responsibilities of the Council. The monthly newsletter provides Gwich'in beneficiaries with up-to-date information on a range of issues that relate to the Gwich'in Land Claim.

In October of 1994, the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council held their first mini-assembly at the Alex Moses-Greenland Building in Inuvik. It provided beneficiaries with an opportunity to gain an understanding of our activities. Thirty-five members attended presentations addressing a broad range of issues. Mini-Assemblies continue to be held every six months.

In November, special recognition was given to William Greenland and Liz Hansen for their extensive work with the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council.

Council meetings are held monthly. The portfolios held by council members



The Alex Moses-Greenland Building houses the offices of the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board, Gwich'in Geographics, and some Gwich'in Tribal Council employees. The building was constructed by Tetlit Zeh Construction in 1993.

Photo by Brian Mitchell

include: Personnel, Finance, Education, Health, Housing, Justice, Social and Cultural, Delta House, Town Council, Ingamo Hall, Signing Authority, Transition House, and Economic Development. The Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council is also an active member of the monthly agency meetings that are held at the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre.

The Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council has established an Elders and Youth Council which meets every month to discuss items

of interest and importance to them. These council members participate in a variety of community activities in the region of Inuvik.

In February of 1995, a Youth Conference was hosted by the Youth Group in Fort McPherson. In addition to the keynote speech by Anita Koe of Fort McPherson, the conference examined the future leadership of the Gwich'in Nation.

The ultimate goal of the Council is to insure that information is disseminated to all members of the Gwich'in community, and that any concerns and questions that beneficiaries may have regarding the Council's projects can be most effectively addressed. Participation of the local Gwich'in population is vital to a healthy community.

Barry Greenland, sub-chief, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council



The Ehdiitat Gwich'in Development Corporation operates TePee Housing Association for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Photo by Brian Mitchell

Teetli't Gwich'in Council

Drinn Gwinzii Shah Kat! 1994-95 has been a very productive and interesting year for the Teetli't Gwich'in Council.

During the month of October Joe Charlie took on the position of Interim Chief, from our former Chief James Ross. Under his guidance and with a strong council, taking over the position was not as hard as expected.

Being in the Chief's position and not having a Band Manager has given me a first hand look at what it takes, administratively, to run the Band Affairs. There are a lot of program dollars out there if an organization knows where to look.

In the last community assembly, concerns were raised that they wanted the Chief to be more involved in the community. I respect the concerns of the people and will delegate much of the travelling to the Sub-Chief or the councilors. Sometimes, in the best interests of the community, it is important that we go to meetings outside of the region. Our trip last February to meet the Minister of Indian Affairs in Ottawa is a good example.

The Youth Service Canada Project was finished in December with almost all of the students who started, completing the training. These young students are out looking for work and anxious to utilize the skills and knowledge that they have recently acquired. Although the project had a rough start, the students gained a greater understanding of what to expect when we take on these programs. In the future we will be looking at accessing more of these types of programs.

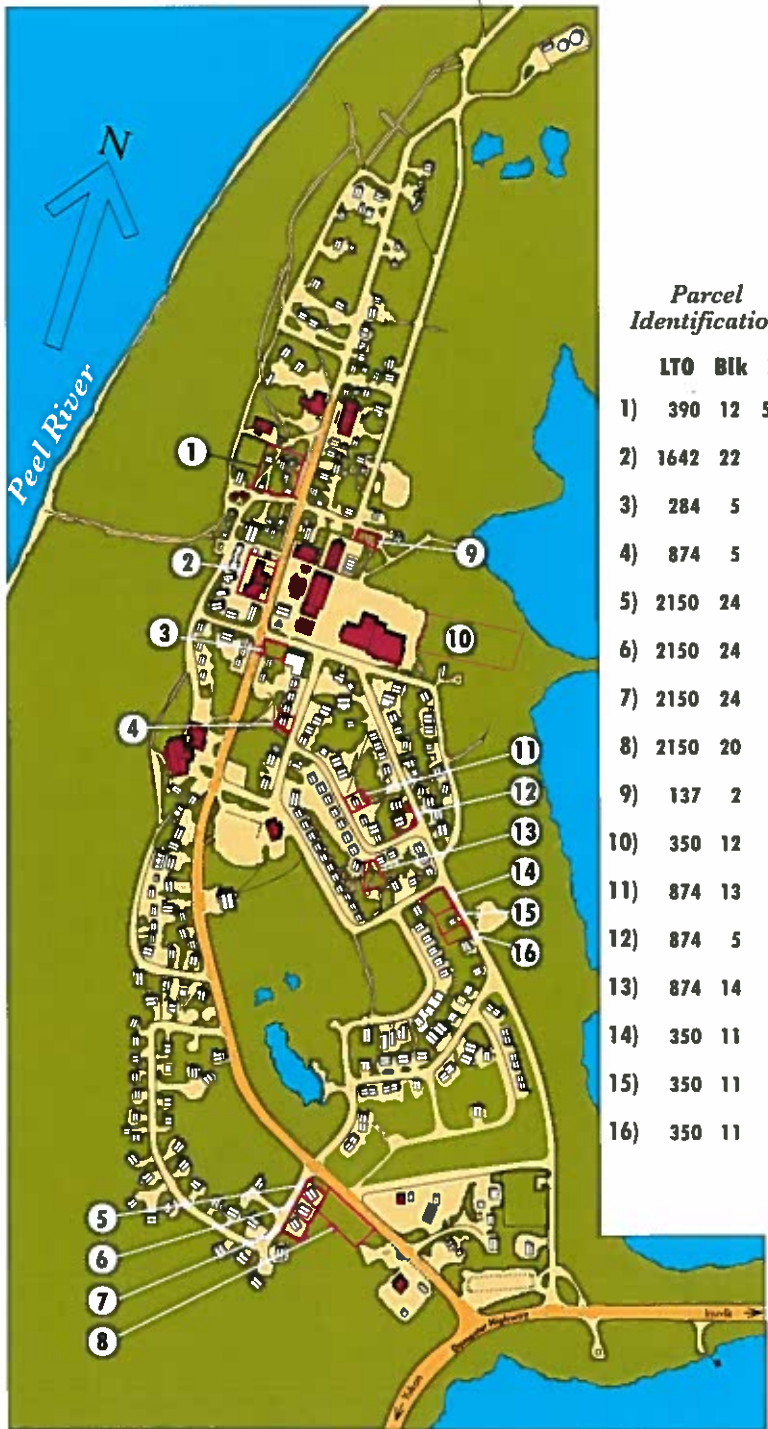
The Incorporated Band Ltd., the business arm of the Teetli't Gwich'in Council, has decided to get out of the equipment leasing business. The Council felt that it was best to sell the company to the Gwich'in Development Corporation, since they have the expertise to run the business more effectively. We signed over four pieces of heavy equipment, the highway maintenance labour contract, the garage, and two trailers. This business is now being operated as Tetlit Zeh Trucking Ltd.

The Inc. Band now owns the John A. Tetlich Building and two lots that are padded and ready for building. Construction of a Band Manager's residence is at the blueprint stage.

Community government devolution is now slowly becoming a reality as we take on more departments and responsibilities. We are in the process of taking over the Economic Development Department. Hopefully by the fall we will have an agreement in place.

Joe Charlie, 1994-95 Teetli't Gwich'in Council Chief

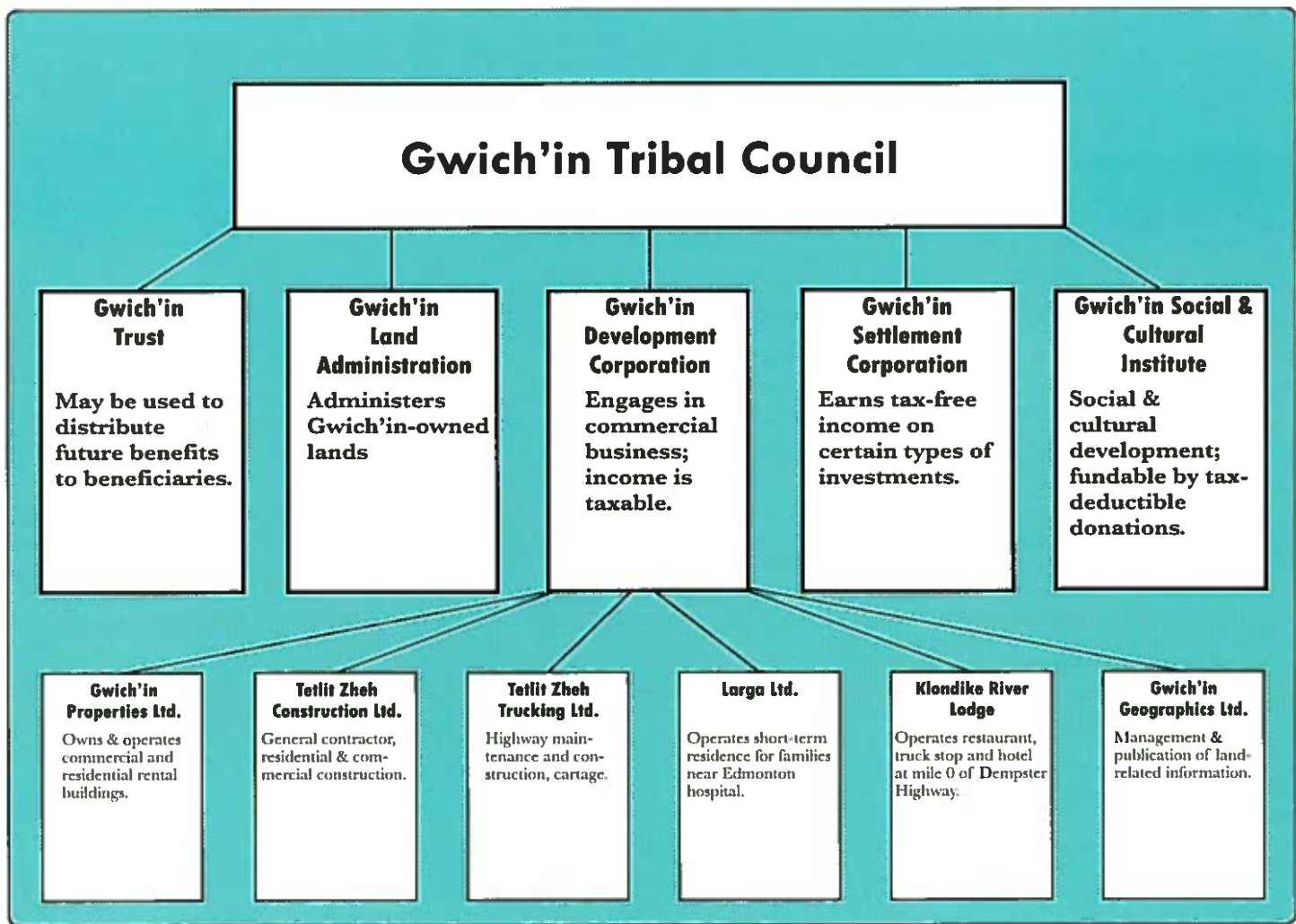
Gwich'in Municipal Lands in the Hamlet of Fort McPherson



Map adapted by Gwich'in Geographics from a drawing by Piet Van Loon.



Subsidiaries of the Gwich'in Tribal Council



Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

This past year has been an exciting and productive year for the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute. We completed four major projects and five contracts, employing 118 Gwich'in beneficiaries in total. Much of our work provided an opportunity for Gwich'in elders and youth to work together opening up lines of communication so that information is being shared again.

Public presentations were an important part of our work. Institute staff made several presentations about the research activities of the Institute. The Institute also spoke to the Standing Committee on Legislation (SCOL) regarding new heritage legislation for the Northwest Territories. We took part in the development of the Community Wellness Strategy for the NWT.

We are now a registered charitable organization under the Income Tax Act as well as a society under the Societies Act of the Northwest Territories. In order to set the goals and directions of the Institute, we now have a Board of Directors.

Our mandate deals with a precious, non-renewable "resource" - Gwich'in culture, knowledge, language and heritage. This work will affect Gwich'in identity, heritage and land management issues for generations to come. It takes time, dedication and funding. Time, unfortunately, is not on our side. With the

death of each Elder, a way of life is disappearing along with a wealth of information and knowledge about the land, language and culture. We are fortunate, though, to be working with dedicated people who believe that this work will make a difference.

Our staff

Ingrid Kritsch, executive director, is responsible for the research and management of the Institute. She has worked for twenty years across the Canadian north, doing archaeological, anthropological and historical research. Ingrid has also worked with two other aboriginal cultural organizations in the Northwest Territories: the Dene Cultural Institute and the Metis Heritage Association.

Alestine Andre, cultural director, is a Gwichya Gwich'in from Tsiigehtchic. She has an undergraduate degree in anthropology from the University of Victoria. In the past she has worked in the administrative field with the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement (COPE), and the Mackenzie Delta Tribal Council (predecessor of the Gwich'in Tribal Council).

Historical overview of the Institute

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute is a non-profit society under the Gwich'in Tribal Council with headquarters in Tsiigehtchic, and a

- DIRECTORS**  
of the  
**Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute**
- Mary Kendi (Aklavik)
  - Gabe Andre (Tsiigehtchic)
  - Catherine Mitchell (Inuvik)
  - Sarah McLeod-Firth (Inuvik)
  - Bertha Francis (Fort McPherson)
  - Eleanor Mitchell (Fort McPherson)
  - Grace Blake (Gwich'in Tribal Council)



Anna-May McLeod and Rita Carpenter participated in an archaeological dig at Martin House in 1994.

Photo by Ingrid Kritsch



Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

research office in Yellowknife. The Institute was created during the Annual Assembly of 1992 in response to people's concerns about their loss of culture and language and the breakdown of their families and communities.

The primary objectives of the Institute are to document Gwich'in oral history and traditional knowledge before this information is lost forever, to promote use of this information, and to integrate it into programs within the Gwich'in Settlement Area so that it will be available for generations to come.

The Institute has joined with various Gwich'in boards, companies, and government departments on projects that meet the objectives of the Institute. These range from identifying culturally significant sites for protection and land management, to developing more relevant cultural material for teaching and tourism purposes.

Elders are the sources of oral history and traditional knowledge and give guidance in cultural matters and values. In each project, local people are trained on-the-job, while doing their own research. They learn about their culture and heritage from the Elders, often while working with professional anthropologists and archaeologists.

The three-year Gwichya Gwich'in Place Names Project recorded an extensive trail system for most of the traditional land use area of the Gwichya Gwich'in, who now primarily reside in Tsiigehtchic. Along these trails, elders

have identified over 300 Gwich'in and English place names, along with stories, legends and the locations of traditional campsites, resource harvesting locations, graves, and historic cabin sites.

The Tsiigehnjik Ethno-archaeology Project (1994) used ethnography (oral history), archaeology, and video to research and record Gwich'in traditional use and knowledge of *Tsiigehnjik* (the Arctic Red River), a recently designated Canadian Heritage River. A half hour video, *Tsiigehnjik: Life Along the Arctic Red River*, focuses on an interview with Hyacinthe Andre, the oldest elder in Tsiigehtchic. Hyacinthe speaks with his son, Noel Andre, about traditional life, place names and the people who lived up the Arctic Red River.

The Tsiigehnjik Ethno-archaeology Project (1995) includes a survey and an archaeological field school. Elders from Tsiigehtchic were interviewed about traditional sites and trails leading into the Mackenzie Mountains, in the upper reaches of the Arctic Red River. Their information helps to direct the archaeological survey of the river. Four high school students also joined the elders and staff for an archaeological field school at Martin House.

Area students participated in three

cultural camps. These camps were held during the fall, winter and spring in order to expose the students to different seasonal activities. Students were taught basic bush skills and traditional environmental knowledge.

The Institute was also awarded several contracts. The Institute provided translation services for Gwich'in items that will be displayed in the Western Arctic Visitor Centre in Inuvik.

The Institute coordinated the survey for the national Aboriginal Seniors Information Project in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The goal of the survey was to interview aboriginal elders across Canada about their knowledge of federal government programs and services.

The Institute conducted an oral history project with Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Elders about traditional use of the Gwich'in Territorial Park area southeast of Inuvik. This information will be used in developing interpretive material for the Park and protecting the cultural resources in the Park. The Institute also provided information for interpretive material at the Nitaiinlali Visitor Centre, eight miles outside of Fort McPherson.

Ingrid Kritsch



At a Tree River cultural camp, Gabe Andre taught Jamie Natsie and Andrea Benoit how to skin a muskrat.

Photos by Alestine Andre

Gwich'in Scholarship and Education Committee

The primary objective of the Gwich'in Scholarship and Education Committee is to meet the training and educational needs of communities in the Gwich'in Settlement Region. Through consultations with the communities, the committee designs its programs according to their recommendations.

The end result has been that a great number of individuals have been able to gain valuable skills in a variety of fields. Some of the most popular programs include training in: literacy, construction apprenticeship, office and secretarial skills, computer technology, Class 1 driver's training, hairstyling, employment counselling, alcohol and drug counselling, natural resource management, and tourism management. Skills related to the tourism industry have been emphasized recently, due to the projected growth of tourism in the region. Many of these programs are planned and operated in cooperation with the Arctic College and

the Canada Employment Centre.

The purpose of the Gwich'in Scholarship Fund is to encourage and assist Gwich'in to pursue advanced post-secondary studies leading to a professional career. Encouragement is provided through financial support which complements financial assistance from other organizations and/or governments. Each year, over fifty recipients apply their scholarships toward studies in such fields as: education, social work, aboriginal management studies, nursing, engineering, mechanics, commerce, environmental science, accounting, and dentistry.

While there can be no guarantees that each beneficiary of the training and scholarship programs will acquire a related job upon completion of their studies, their opportunities and choices are inevitably enhanced as they enter, or re-enter, the competitive job market.

by William Robert Koe



Chief Julius was a strong supporter of education in the first half of the twentieth century, and the school in Fort McPherson is now named after him. This picture was taken in the summer of 1947.

Photo by S.J. Bailey, National Archives of Canada

**DIRECTORS**  
of the  
**Gwich'in Scholarship and Education Committee**  
James Gardlund  
Gladys Alexie  
Margaret Donovan  
Elizabeth Crawford-Hansen



# Gwich'in Land Administration

The three cornerstones of the Gwich'in Land Claims Agreement are land, culture, and economy. The land issue plays a central role in defining the future course of the Gwich'in Settlement Region (GSR), and it is the responsibility of the Gwich'in Land Administration (GLA) to set the guidelines and monitor the private lands of the GSR.

Under the policy of the Land Claim Agreement, land is to be held indefinitely and is not to be damaged by human activity. The Agreement also stipulates that the Gwich'in shall control and manage all land within the agreement.

The Gwich'in Land Administration office is managed and operated by John Brownlee and Joe Benoit, Administrator and Assistant Administrator respectively. They have been active on a number of projects over the past year, highlighted by the Legal Survey of Gwich'in Lands, the Land Title Registration, the Land Registry, and the Land Management and Control Rules.

Survey fieldwork, including surveys of the municipalities and roads, has been

completed. An extra point survey at river sites is now underway. This survey will record the exact locations where navigable waterways intersect the boundaries of Gwich'in lands. The Gwich'in Land Administration has also designed the process for title registration, with consultations with the Land Title Offices.

The dispositions on private land were tracked and needs were identified and reported to the Gwich'in Tribal Council Executive. Decision-making topics regarding private lands were allocated among the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the community Gwich'in Councils, and control rules were drafted.

Some of the other issues that the Land Administration Office have been pursuing include: forest management, research, recreational access, gravel, prospecting, oil and gas, Renewable Resource Councils, Peel River remediation, the overlap agreement with the Inuvialuit, formation of the Land and Water Board, a harvester's assistance program, and staff training.



*The Charles Koe Building in Fort McPherson is headquarters for the Gwich'in Nation. This building, constructed by Tetlit Zheh Construction, houses the offices of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Tetlit Gwich'in Council, Gwich'in Enrolment Board, Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Gwich'in Development Corporation.*

Photo by Robert A. Alexie

# Gwich'in Development Corporation

The Gwich'in Development Corporation (GDC) was established in 1992 and is the economic wing of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

GDC has interests in the following companies: Gwich'in Geographics Ltd. (Inuvik); Gwich'in Properties Ltd. (Fort McPherson); Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd. (Inuvik); Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd. (Fort McPherson); Klondike River Lodge Ltd. (Mile 0, Dempster Highway, Yukon); and Larga Ltd. (Edmonton).

The objective of the GDC is to invest a portion of the financial compensation from the Gwich'in land claim agreement, and to provide employment, training and business opportunities for the Gwich'in.

These objectives are based on a motion passed by the Annual Assembly in Arctic Red River on July 29, 1991, and direction given at a Financial Workshop held in Whitehorse in February of 1994.

The Arctic Red River motion states that the financial compensation must be safely invested, yet protected and preserved for future generations. The direction from the Financial Workshop reinforced and expanded on the Arctic Red River motion, including the need for employment and training.

We believe we have achieved our objectives.

As of June 30, 1995, there were 103 people employed by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and its subsidiaries. 83 (80.6%) of these are Gwich'in. This does not take into account the boards established under the Gwich'in Agreement, Larga Ltd. or the Klondike River Lodge.

## Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd.

Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd. (TZCL) began operations in 1992. Tetlit Zheh Construction has already become the largest construction company in the region and is fast gaining a reputation elsewhere.

TZCL is one of the cornerstones for the future development of the Gwich'in Nation and offers a tremendous opportunity for Gwich'in to participate in business, training and employment.

Some of the highlights of the 1994 construction season were the completion of the Regional Visitors Centre in Inuvik, a Housing Project in Yellowknife, and the construction of the Tl'oondih Healing Camp.

The Lumber Mill project was responsible for producing lumber from locally harvested timber at competitive prices. This lumber was used in the Visitors Center in Inuvik and other projects.

The Millwork Shop in Inuvik has enabled TZCL to produce high quality furniture products, which continue to be in demand.

This year TZCL will be working on the Recreation Centre in Inuvik, Access and Government Housing in the communities, and another Housing Project in Yellowknife.

Art Christensen is Senior Project Manager, and Nick Roder is Operations Manager.

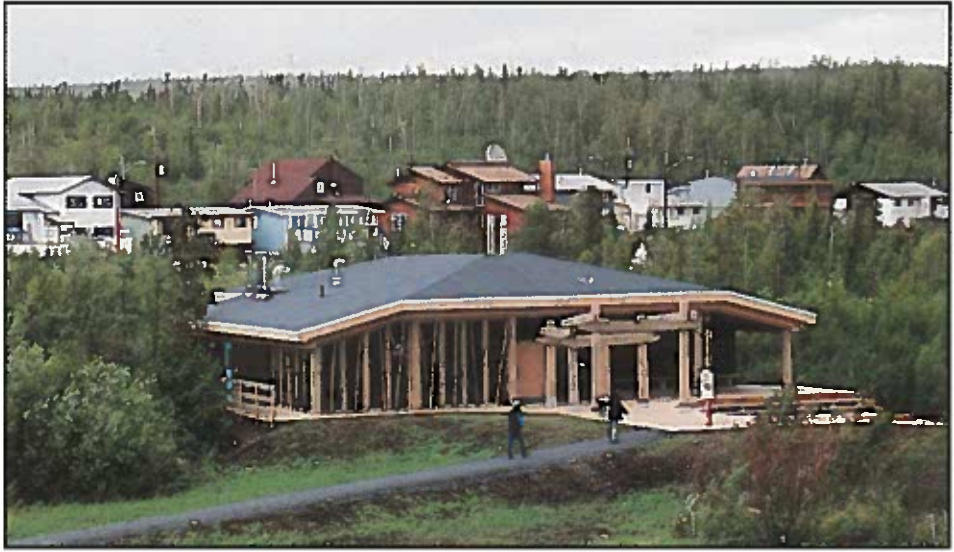
## Klondike River Lodge Ltd.

The Klondike River Lodge, at Mile 0 of the Dempster Highway, has been in operation for approximately 22 years and was originally owned by Don and Joyce MacGillivray.

GDC purchased the lodge in 1994, and we foresee the Lodge fitting into larger projects. GDC has had to upgrade the facility and will continue to do so to make this a first class facility that we can all be proud of.

As a gateway to the Gwich'in region, providing important services to travellers, the Klondike River Lodge will provide employment and training to Gwich'in in the years to come.

Ann Firth-Jones is General Manager and Stan Jones is Assistant Manager.



*The Inuvik Visitors Centre, operated by the Government of the Northwest Territories for tourism promotion, was built by Tetlit Zheh Construction.*

Photo by Brian Mitchell



# Gwich'in Development Corporation

## Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd. (TZTL)

Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd. was purchased from the Fort McPherson Incorporated Band Ltd. in 1993 and is located in Fort McPherson on the Dempster Highway.

TZTL now owns 35 pieces of heavy equipment. The company brought in \$1.3 million in revenue last year and will exceed this in the 1995 season. There are about 20 full-time seasonal workers on staff.

TZTL will be looking at privatizing the maintenance of the Dempster Highway from the NWT/ Yukon border to Inuvik in the upcoming year. This will mean more employment and better opportunities for Gwich'in business.

We have developed a young team of Gwich'in who have made this company one of our shining stars. In 1994, TZTL successfully completed a Class 1 drivers course offered to local beneficiaries and have increased its fleet and have hired on more Gwich'in than ever before.

Dean Smith is Manager and Peter James Vittrekwa is Foreman.

## Larga Ltd. (LL)

Larga Ltd. is a referral service which provides residential and transportation services to patients sent to Edmonton for medical treatment.

The Gwich'in Development Corporation, Nunasi Ltd., and Bill Davidson are the shareholders in this very successful business, which has given us a very good return on our investment.

Larga is currently looking at establishing similar facilities in other locations.

Bill Davidson is General Manager of Larga Ltd.

## Gwich'in Properties Ltd. (GPL)

Gwich'in Properties Ltd., has been set up as a holding company for all real estate owned by the Gwich'in.

The objective of this company is to ensure that our commercial office buildings and residential rental properties generate a profit each and every year.

This is a holding company and has no employees as yet.



Curtis Crawford and Andrew Kendi operating Tetlit Zheh Construction's Wood-Mizer®. Using this portable wood mill, the company provides locally harvested and milled lumber for some of its construction projects.

Photo by Brian Mitchell

# Gwich'in Development Corporation

## Gwich'in Geographics Ltd. (GGL)

Gwich'in Geographics Ltd. was established in 1993 to provide management and presentation of geographic information.

GGL works in three major areas: computer consulting, publishing and mapping. Gwich'in Geographics has grown from one employee to five over the last year. Revenue comes from contracts with several government agencies, Gwich'in land claim boards, and other organizations.

The first year's projects included maps of Gwich'in-owned land parcels, a masterplan for the development of the Gwich'in Territorial Park, several computer database projects, and design of interpretive signs for tourism promotion. The company now owns satellite imagery for the entire Gwich'in Settlement Region. This satellite data set is more complete and of higher quality than that possessed by any other agency.

GGL has acquired computer printing equipment enabling local production of top quality posters, and the company has also developed computer displays using maps, photographs, satellite imagery, and spoken Gwich'in-language place names.

An article on Gwich'in Geographics was published in *GIS World*, an international industry journal. In June, Brian Mitchell and Don Boyes made a presentation to the Geomatics '95 conference in Ottawa.

Bart Kreps was Manager of Gwich'in Geographics from the company's establishment in 1993 until the summer of 1995, when Brian Mitchell took over as Manager.

by Wanda MacDonald,  
Secretary/Treasurer



Above, GGL employees Ron English and Leonard DeBastien with a satellite image-map of the Gwich'in Settlement Region. Below, Debastien performs enhancements to satellite imagery using a computer workstation.

Photos by Brian Mitchell



## DIRECTORS of the Gwich'in Development Corporation

Willard Hagen  
James B. Firth  
Robert Alexie Jr.  
Wanda McDonald  
Grace Blake  
Freddy Greenland  
James Ross  
Dolly Carmichael

## Gwich'in Trust Corporation

Willard Hagen  
James B. Firth  
Robert Alexie Jr.

## Gwich'in Land Corporation

Willard Hagen  
James B. Firth  
Robert Alexie  
Eugene Pascal  
James Ross

## Gwich'in Settlement Corporation

Willard Hagen  
James B. Firth  
Robert Alexie Jr.  
Eugene Pascal  
Peter Ross



# Self-government Negotiations

There are three major processes that will develop control over the governance of the region: self-government negotiations, constitutional development, and community development. The Gwich'in Tribal Council has forged alliances with the Inuvialuit and other groups to achieve self-government goals. Although we are not dependent on these alliances, there is potential for greater influence when the Gwich'in combine efforts with others in the region.

In negotiations with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), we have two objectives in mind: a public government system within the Beaufort/Delta Region, and the creation of the Constitutional Development Steering Committee for the advancement of a public government that represents the entire western territories. It is hoped that these two processes will define a new form of government prior to the division of the Northwest Territories in 1999.

The Tribal Council is involved in many other efforts to obtain greater community control. Activities include planning of education and training programs, the implementation of a health/social service needs assessment, and the development of pilot projects for social assistance recipients. The Tl'oondih Healing Camp is evidence of the Tribal Council's efforts in healing people, which will be a very important step on the road to self-government.

## Negotiations

The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement contains a chapter on self-government and a Framework Agreement that defines a process for negotiations of self-government agreements. There are two models of government that the Gwich'in can negotiate: public and aboriginal. The Gwich'in and Inuvialuit have decided to negotiate a self-government agreement that would create a public governing system in the Beaufort/Delta regions.

Although a public government will be a priority for negotiations, it is important to clearly define the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Inherent Right of Self-government. These rights could be instilled in a public governing agreement in such a way that the two aboriginal peoples have the ability to implement the rights at sometime in the future.

Over the past year, attempts to negotiate self-government agreements were frustrated by the lack of formal responses from the Government of Canada on two issues: the appointment of a federal negotiator, and the federal cabinet approval of a negotiating mandate. These issues were resolved after the Federal Minister gave the approval for the appointment of a negotiator which included a commitment to take a negotiating mandate to cabinet.

The government also agreed to a detailed workplan for Framework Discussions over the next year. The workplan for these discussions includes four major subjects: 1) education, culture and training; 2) health and social services; 3) administration of justice; and 4) governing system(s) for the region and communities.

## Constitutional Development for the western Territories

The Gwich'in Tribal Council is an active participant in the Constitution Development Steering Committee, along with members of the Legislative Assembly, Association of Municipalities and special interest groups.

Regional and community consultations were held prior to a major Constitutional Development Conference last winter. The conference was very successful, resulting in the recognition of

the inherent right of aboriginal self-government. The aboriginal caucus unanimously pledged to put pressure on the Federal Government to negotiate self-government agreements.

Research work has started on the development of a document which will give delegates of the Second Constitutional Conference options for the drafting of a constitution. The Second Conference will be held in the Spring of 1996. Since the Beaufort/Delta negotiations must conduct its own research on many of the constitutional development subjects, we will be well prepared for the Second Constitutional Conference.

## Community Development

Community development initiatives in which the Gwich'in Tribal Council is participating include the Tl'oondih Healing Camp, funding contributions for scholarships, a Natural Resource Management Program, and an Aboriginal Management Program, assistance in the creation of community-based Justice Committees, and the creation of the Mackenzie Delta Legal Justice Committee that will provide courtworker and legal aid services.

by Bob Simpson, Executive Assistant



A group gathered at Fort McPherson for treaty days in 1929. Chief Julius (front row, third from RCMP officer), Old Vittrekwa (cap in hand)

# Gwich'in Implementation Committee

The Gwich'in Implementation Committee, consisting of representatives from the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Government of the Northwest Territories, and Government of Canada, oversees the various land claim co-management boards. The Committee met several times over the past year to approve the first Annual Report and funding procedures, and to carry out a general review of the Implementation Plan.

Although, generally, the land claim is being implemented according to the Implementation Plan, there continue to be difficulties with the slow ministerial appointments to various Boards, the drafting of legislation for the resource management system, licensing of land use on Gwich'in lands, and meeting the intent of the economic measures.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council has been instrumental in applying pressure to Government to meet implementation obligations. The Council has undertaken several research projects on cumulative impact monitoring and environmental audit, and the start up of the Land and Water Board and Environmental Impact Review Board. Continued advice is given to the Renewable Resource and Interim Land Use Planning Board regarding the intent and interpretation of the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

## Activities

There are several ongoing disputes between the Gwich'in and Government.

One and half years ago the Gwich'in Tribal Council took the Government of Canada to court over their persistent delays in appointing members of the Renewable Resource Board. Due to this delay, the Tribal Council sought compensation for the lost interest in the Wildlife Studies Fund, as well as for the incurred court costs. The Government of Canada has settled out of Court and the Council will not proceed with the case.

The Tribal Council continues to object strongly to the use of the Frog Creek gravel quarry by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The point of contention is whether the Tribal Council is obligated to provide free gravel to the Government, at its own expense. The Gwich'in Land Administration is working with GNWT officials in the development of a Pit Management Plan that may resolve the ongoing dispute over the costs of maintaining the pit.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council has strongly stated that the delay in drafting the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act is unacceptable. The passage of this Act will create the Land and Water Board, Land Use Planning Board, and Environmental Impact Review Board, but this legislation is currently delayed by over six months. The Council is working with the Implementation Committee to develop operating guidelines and procedures for the Boards and will staff an Executive Director term position for the Environmental Impact Review Board and Land and Water Board.

Although the passage of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act has been delayed, there have been very positive developments in the drafting of the Act. For example, the current version of the Act states that: the Minister can only give policy direction to the Land and Water Board and cannot interfere with the decisions of the Board; the Land Use Plan requires the approval of the Gwich'in Tribal Council; the Minister is obligated to appoint the nominees of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and cannot

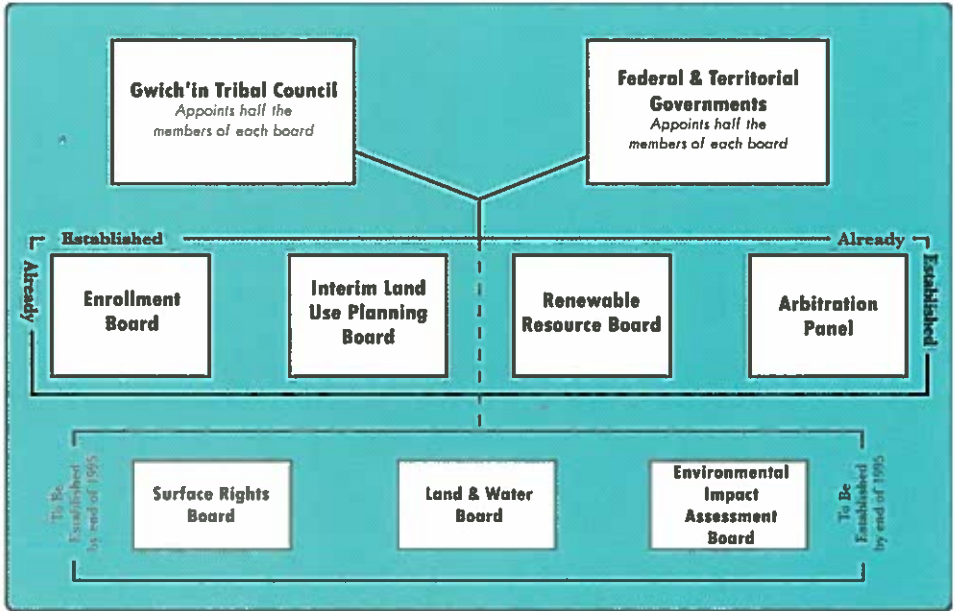
remove these members without cause and consultation with the Tribal Council; and, there is a clear and fundamental requirement for the consent of the Gwich'in, prior to the Land and Water Board issuance of a land use permit for development on Gwich'in lands.

The Act will provide for the framework of a cumulative impacts monitoring system and the ability to conduct environmental audits. The Gwich'in Tribal Council is interviewing potential contributors to the monitoring system, and a workshop will be conducted in the near future to develop a proposal for the Minister to review.

## Development of the Boards

The nominees to the Land and Water Board will begin to develop the by-laws, guidelines and procedures for the Board's operations. This work should be completed in the next few months and further work will be carried out once an acting Executive Director is hired. Of particular concern is the development of the land use permit applications and procedures.

by Bob Simpson, Executive Assistant



The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement is being implemented by co-management boards, appointed by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and government.



# Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board

The Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board was created when the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was passed in the House of Commons, December 22, 1992. The Board is responsible for land use planning in the Gwich'in Settlement Area between the date of settlement legislation and the date that the legislation establishing the permanent Land Use Planning Board comes into effect.

The Board is comprised of five appointed members: two nominated by the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), one by Canada, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), one by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and a chair, selected by the four members. The Board hired Ron Cruikshank as land use planner/coordinator in September, 1993.

The Interim Board is to produce a draft land use plan for the Gwich'in Settlement area based on the work conducted by the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea Regional Land Use Planning Commission.

## Activities, Challenges and Achievements in 1994

In January, 1994, a community consultation schedule was developed for the purpose of gathering land and water issues and concerns from the people living in the four communities in the region.

The Board was represented at the Peel River Advisory Committee meeting held in Fort McPherson in March 1994 and was identified as a source of information regarding the lands and waters of the Peel River watershed. The Board was also represented at the Bonnet Plume Heritage River meetings held in Mayo, Yukon.

Successful issue identification workshops were held in each community in February and March of 1994. A round of meetings with government and private organizations relating to land and water issues occurred in April and May. A paper entitled "Lands and Water Issues Related to the Gwich'in Settlement Area" summarizes community, government and private industry concerns and has been released to Gwich'in agencies, government and industry for comment.

In June of 1994, the Board voted to fund the Tsiigehtchic Ethno-archaeological Project (Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute), and a geographic information systems options study

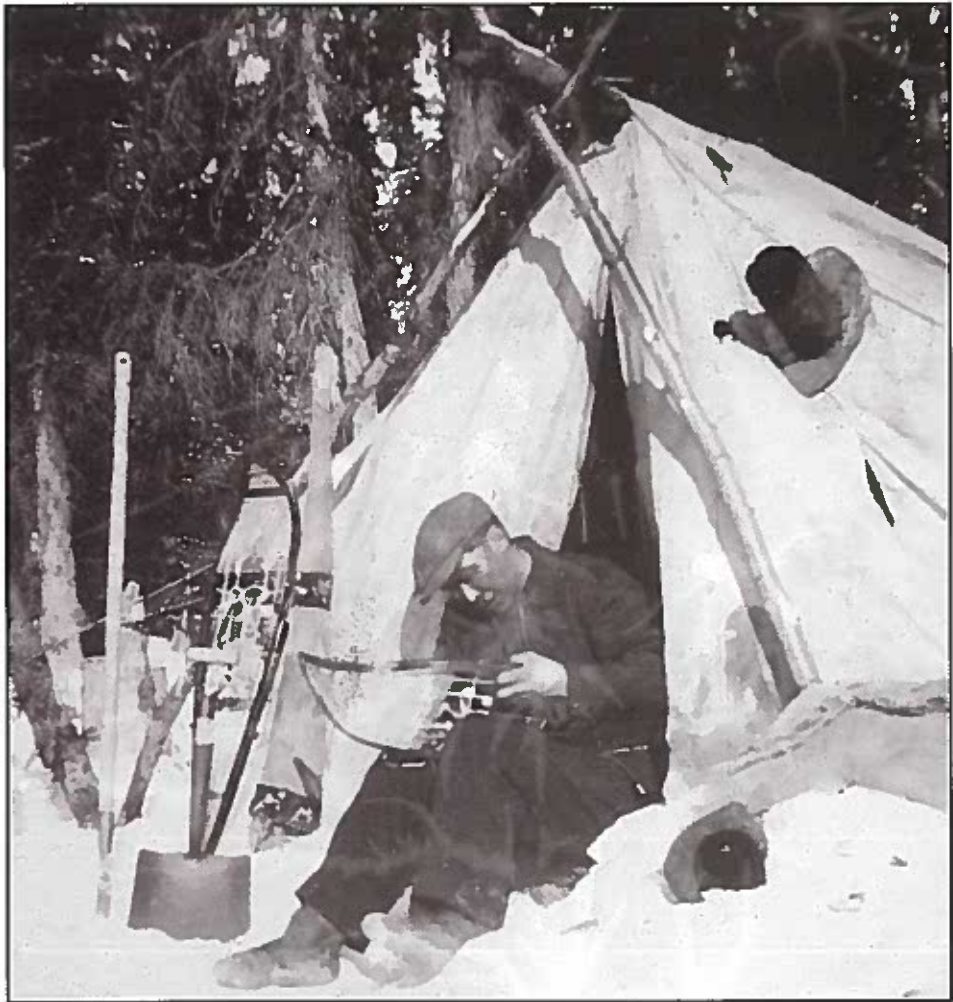
(Gwich'in Geographics).

In October, 1994, the Board reviewed detailed comments on the previous Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea regional land use plan. The planner cited several areas where the problems in the land use planning process led to problems in the final product. The Board agreed that the planner should conduct a round of workshops with the Renewable Resource Councils, to begin updating and correcting the land classification maps presented in the old plan.

The difficulties experienced when attempting to recover the information from the old plan has meant that the planner has had to conduct an ongoing information search regarding land and

water resources of the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Maps and files from this search are now located in the Interim Land Use Planning Office in Inuvik.

The Interim Land Use Planning Board has developed an understanding of the problems associated with the Mackenzie-Delta Beaufort Sea Land Use Plan, and isolated what is worth saving from the old plan. The Board anticipates having this plan re-edited for the Gwich'in Settlement Area by the end of 1995. The Board also expects that a paper will be completed making recommendations regarding a Geographic Information System to be used by the Land and Water Board and the Land Use Planning Board.



*George Roberts of Fort McPherson was known as a man of many talents, from hunting and trapping to fiddling and photography. This self-portrait is thought to date from the late 1940's.*

# Gwich'in Enrolment Board

The Gwich'in Enrolment Board was created in March 1993 as part of the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement negotiated between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of Canada. It is responsible for enrolling all eligible participants in the claim.

Applications for enrolment are reviewed by the Board, which decides whether applications should be accepted or rejected. Applications that are made under section 4.2.2 of the Claim are referred to the Gwich'in Tribal Council for a decision as to whether the person should be accepted into the claim.

In order to encourage people to enrol, the Board has distributed posters, pamphlets entitled "Enrolling in the Gwich'in Claim", and has advertised extensively in newspapers throughout the North and the major cities of Canada. Enrolment packages are available in the maternity wards at Stanton, Yellowknife and Inuvik General Hospitals. Field workers were hired to assist in completing applications, and an enrolment booth was set up at major Gwich'in events.

The first Enrolment Registry was published on April 22, 1994, and listed 1,245 participants. That number had increased to 1,904 by March 31, 1995. Given that there are estimated to be 2,200 potential Gwich'in beneficiaries, this means that the Board has enrolled 87%, with about 13%, or 295 people, still left to be enrolled. By community, the numbers enrolled are as follows:

Aklavik: 219 living in Aklavik, 59 living outside Aklavik;

Ft. McPherson: 748 living in Ft. McPherson, 323 living outside Ft.

McPherson;

Inuvik: 258 living in Inuvik, 44 living outside Inuvik;

Tsiigehtchic: 121 living in Tsiigehtchic, 123 living outside Tsiigehtchic.

The Board has prepared and mailed out 1,670 Certificates of Enrolment, all personally signed by the Chairperson, and has issued 1,158 Gwich'in status cards.

The Board has met with the Inuvialuit and Yukon enrolment authorities and has worked co-operatively to develop forms that will make it simpler for those who wish to leave one of those claims and join the Gwich'in claim.

Through consultation and workshops with elders, the Board has done extensive work on developing a database of Gwich'in family history and genealogy so that beneficiaries can trace their family histories.

As most of the Board's work was completed in the first two years of operation, it is has been scaling down its work for the next three years. The Board is reducing its office space, staff time, and board meetings to reflect its decreasing funding. The Board now meets four times a year, rather than the 10 or 11 times per year that it met for the first two years.

## DIRECTORS

of the

### Enrolment Board

Barb Foley, Chairperson  
Rosemary M. Gairns, Vice-Chair  
Robert Alexie, Sr.  
James Gardlund  
Louisa Andre  
Dolly Carmichael  
Sharon Snowshoe

## DIRECTORS

of the

### Interim Land Use Planning Board

Piet Van Loon, Chair  
Charlie Snowshoe Sr., Vice-Chair  
Karen LeGresley  
Robin Aitken  
Bob Simpson



Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) became operational when the Board's members and chairperson were formally appointed in April and May 1994. The Board consists of six regular members, six alternate members, and a chairperson.

In October 1994, the Board hired Peter Clarkson as executive director for the Board. The GRRB office was set-up in Inuvik and the following staff were hired: Trina Edwards (executive secretary), Cheryl Chetkiewicz (biologist), Wynet Smith (policy/management analyst), and Ian McDonald (Harvest Study coordinator).

The Board held three meetings and one tele-conference during the 1994-95 fiscal year. The Board's regular meeting schedule has been set so that the Board meets four times per year (January, April, July, October). The meeting schedule allows the Board to meet once in each season. The meeting locations will rotate between the four Gwich'in communities (Inuvik, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic). Tele-conferences are held between meetings when needed. The Board's chairperson and executive director have been attending Renewable Resource Council (RRC) meetings in each community to inform the RRC of the Board's activities, to hear community concerns and needs regarding renewable resources, and to establish a close working relationship with the RRC's.

Much of the Board's time for the past year has focused on establishing the required administrative needs to allow the Board to operate efficiently and effectively. The Board's Operating Procedures, covering the operation of the Board and staff, were drafted and reviewed. A standard funding request application was completed for researchers wishing to request funds from the Board for renewable resource research. Having a standard application will make the review process easier for Board members, researchers, and RRC's.

During the 1994-95 fiscal year the Board has funded four research projects: 1) Bluenose Caribou radio-collaring and monitoring, 2) Waterfowl Harvest Study in the Mackenzie Delta, 3) Geographic Information Systems Options Study, and 4) Gwich'in Settlement Region Basemap Project. The Board has also contributed funding to support the protection of the Porcupine Caribou Herd from the threat



Dall Sheep thrive in several areas in the Richardson Mountains near Aklavik and Fort McPherson..

of developing the Alaska 1002 lands, which are the calving grounds for the herd.

So far in fiscal year 1995-96, the Board has funded 10 research projects throughout the Gwich'in Settlement Area, allocating approximately \$200,000. Research includes seven fisheries projects, the Bluenose Caribou census, Peregrine Falcon survey, and the Environmental Knowledge Project.

The Board organized the Rat River Char Workshop in Aklavik in January 1995, involving the Aklavik RRC, Aklavik Hunters' and Trappers' Committee (HTC), and Fort McPherson RRC. The workshop was held to allow the fishermen and community members to express their concerns about the Rat River Char fishery and make recommendations for future harvest monitoring, enforcement, and research. Board representatives also attended the Mesh Size Workshop in Inuvik, sponsored by Fisheries and Oceans, in March 1995.

The Gwich'in Harvest Study will begin September 1995 and will be conducted for the next 5 years to establish the Gwich'in Minimum Needs Level. A Harvest Study Assistant and four Community Field Workers will be hired from the GSA.



The RRB's responsibilities involve issues such as forestry management as well as provisions for research on the many wildlife species that inhabit the Gwich'in Settlement Region.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

The Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project began this summer and will collect local knowledge about the land and wildlife for the next 18 months. Gleb Raygorodetsky has been hired as the project coordinator and will be hiring community research assistants in each of the Gwich'in communities to assist with interviews and collection of information.

During the summer the Board has hired two Gwich'in students (Brad Firth and Grant Sullivan) to assist with projects and encourage the students to pursue a career in renewable resources.

In the past year the Board became fully operational and began many ongoing programs. Contacts made with government agencies, RRC's, and Inuvialuit organizations will help the Board to effectively fulfil its mandate for renewable resource management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

by Peter Clarkson, Executive Director



DIRECTORS  
of the  
Renewable Resources Board

Robert Charlie, Chairperson

Robert Alexie Sr.

Joe Benoit

James Firth

Roger Binne

Jim Hickling

Paul Lalour

Alternate members:

Grace Blake

Freddie Greenland

James Ross

Ed Henderson

Kevin McCormick

Roger Peet



## Financial Comptroller's Report

The consolidated financial statements of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1995, make up the concluding section of the Annual Report. The statements are presented in two parts, the Operations Fund and the Land Claim Settlement Fund.

### Operations Fund

The Operations Fund includes the operating activities of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute. The major operations of the Gwich'in Tribal Council include Band Council Support, Claim Implementation, Self Government Negotiations, Economic Development, Education and Training and Land Administration. Total revenues of approximately \$3,000,000 were received during the year to fund operating requirements, including a \$500,000 contribution from the Land Claim Settlement Fund. A surplus of \$14,930 was achieved for the year on current operations. In addition, a distribution of \$309,981 was made of the accumulated operating surplus to the four Designated Gwich'in Organizations.

**Land Claim Settlement Fund**

The Gwich'in Tribal Council has received approximately \$20,000,000 of financial compensation to date as part of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. This compensation is reflected within the Land Claim Settlement Fund and have been invested in the following:

- a) Gwich'in Settlement Corporation

b) Gwich'in Development Corporation  
c) TI'oondih Healing Camp  
The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation has received \$10,000,000 from the Gwich'in Tribal Council to date. These funds have been invested in Triple A Government Bonds. An investment strategy was developed on February 17-20, 1994 and is contained in the Gwich'in Financial Road

transferred to the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation. The Fund will be inflation protected. The interest generated from the fund will be available in the future to fund designated activities.

The Gwich'in Development Corporation's objective is to conduct business and investment activities on behalf of the Gwich'in to preserve and enhance the financial compensation received through the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. To date, a total of approximately \$8,900,000 has been invested by the Gwich'in Development Corporation as shown in the chart.

Ti'oonidih Healing Camp was under construction at the year end. To date, approximately \$1,400,000 has been expended on the Healing Camp. It was completed after the year end and the Healing Camp is being run by the Gwich'in Healing Society.

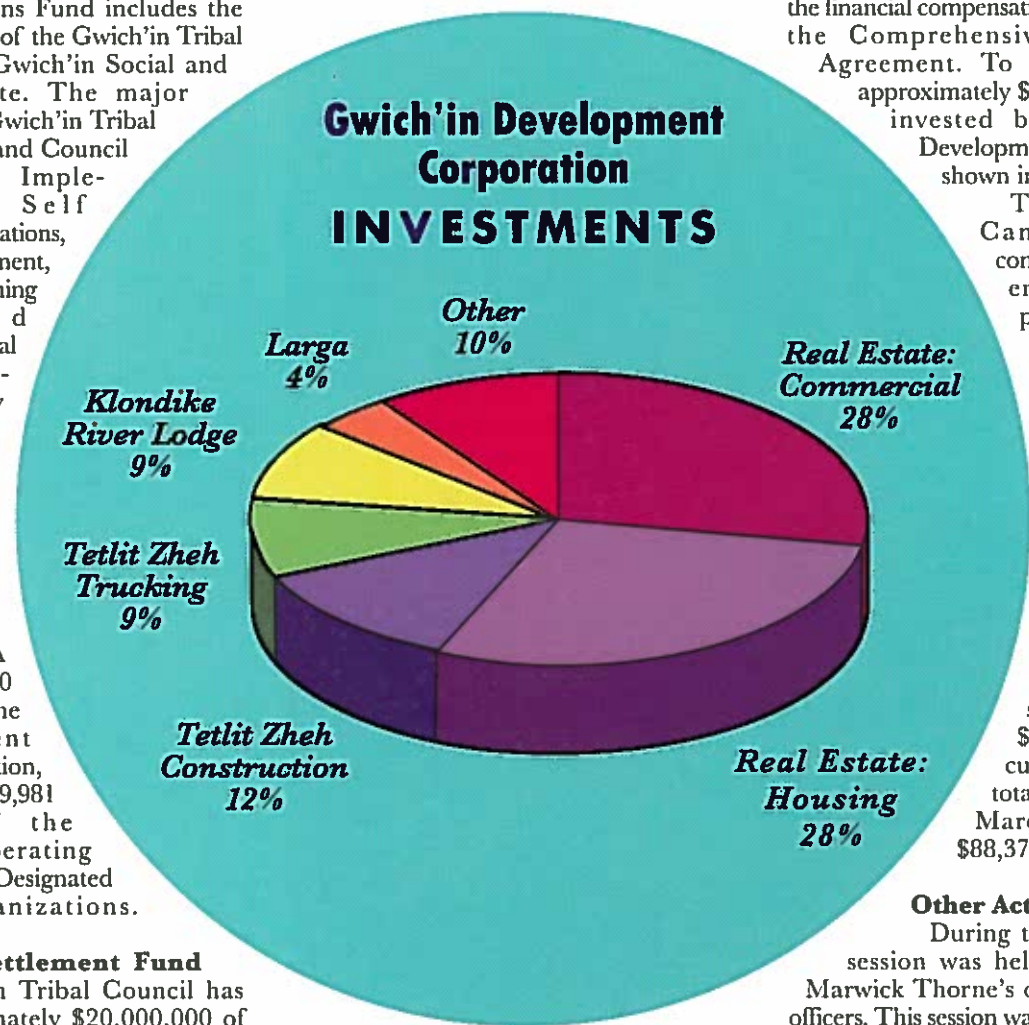
The Land Claim Settlement Fund generated a surplus of \$5,348,335 on current activities. The total fund balance as at March 31, 1995 was \$88,374,601.

### Other Activities

During the year a training session was held at KPMG Peat Marwick Thorne's offices for financial officers. This session was a one week session and covered computerized financial accounting using Simply Accounting program. Ongoing financial training courses will be offered on a regular basis.

*by Greg D. Cayen, C.A., Comptroller*

Map document. This document was developed by the delegates at the Gwich'in Financial Roundtable Conference. It is expected that the majority of the Land Claim Financial Compensation will be



## GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

## Consolidated Financial Statements

**Year ended March 31, 1995**

## Auditors' Report to the Members

### Financial Statements:

**Operations Fund:**

Consolidated Balance Sheet  
Consolidated Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Fund Balance  
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

**Land Claim Settlement Fund:**

Consolidated Balance Sheet  
Consolidated Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Fund Balances  
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

## AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the consolidated balance sheets of Gwich'in Tribal Council operations and land claim settlement funds as at March 31, 1995 and the consolidated statements of revenue, expenditures and fund balance and changes in financial position of the funds for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 1995 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 1994 were reported on by other auditors.

Harry Raul Mariani Thorne

## Chartered Accountants

**Yellowknife, Canada**

May 16, 1995



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

## Operations Fund Consolidated Balance Sheet



March 31, 1995, with comparative figures for 1994

	1995	1994
		(Restated)
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 278,307	\$ 316,394
Accounts receivable	529,591	414,772
Loans receivable (note 2)	26,546	30,146
Prepaid expenses	1,903	-
	836,347	761,312
Capital assets [note 1(e)]	289,168	197,872
	\$ 1,125,515	\$ 959,184

## Liabilities and Fund Balance

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 378,115	\$ 113,240
Deferred revenue	239,759	134,548
	617,874	247,788
Equity in capital assets [note 1(e)]	289,168	197,872
Operations fund balance	218,473	513,524
	\$ 1,125,515	\$ 959,184

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Approved  Director  
 Director

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

## Operations Fund Consolidated Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Fund Balance

Year ended March 31, 1995, with comparative figures for 1994

	1995	1994
		(Restated)
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Contributions:		
DIAND	\$ 1,546,152	\$ 1,581,070
Government of Canada	33,116	70,310
Government of NWT	450,806	255,041
Land claim settlement - operations	500,000	39,010
- education and training	125,990	-
Management fees	120,000	15,000
Royalties	197,009	212,883
Interest	10,779	-
Other	29,959	36,237
	3,013,811	2,209,551
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Rent	160,129	81,874
Honoraria	100,066	148,588
Salaries and benefits	1,158,394	691,524
External consultants	222,925	96,397
Community coordinators	106,853	120,494
Professional fees	189,475	99,453
Administration	260,647	165,514
Travel	375,944	326,046
Donations	31,615	20,929
Christmas hampers	34,766	29,073
Annual general assembly	59,143	68,279
Special assemblies and trips	48,769	62,181
Capital asset purchases	92,207	64,233
	2,840,933	1,974,585
Surplus before transfers	172,878	234,966
Contributions to:		
Renewable Resource Councils	137,275	188,514
Elders Fund	20,673	-
	157,948	188,514
Surplus for the year	14,930	46,452
Fund balance, beginning of year	513,524	467,072
Distributions to Designated Gwich'in Organizations	309,981	-
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 218,473	\$ 513,524

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



## GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

### Operations Fund

#### Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 1995, with comparative figures for 1994

	1995	1994
		(Restated)
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities:		
Surplus for the year	\$ 14,930	\$ 46,452
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(114,819)	166,672
Loans receivable	3,600	—
Prepaid expenses	(1,903)	—
Accounts payable	264,875	23,493
Deferred revenue	105,211	(60,406)
	271,894	176,211
Distributions to Designated Gwich'in Organizations	(309,981)	—
Increase (decrease) in cash	(38,087)	176,211
Cash, beginning of year	316,394	140,183
Cash, end of year	\$ 278,307	\$ 316,394

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

### Land Claim Settlement Fund

#### Consolidated Balance Sheet

March 31, 1995, with comparative figures for 1994

	1995	1994
		(Restated)
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and short-term investments (note 3)	\$ 12,506,457	\$ 10,244,395
Accounts receivable	1,771,562	276,160
Inventory	114,425	47,019
Notes receivable (note 4)	33,319	801,026
Unbilled costs on contracts in progress	—	294,848
Work in progress, at cost	49,737	—
Current portion of mortgages receivable	175,000	6,296
Current portion of future settlement proceeds [note 10(a)]	1,992,607	—
Prepaid expenses	15,188	5,310
	16,658,295	11,675,054
Mortgages receivable (note 5)	450,000	273,453
Long-term investments (note 6)	283,125	—
Income producing properties (note 7)	4,802,848	3,211,307
Capital assets (note 8)	1,325,261	244,806
Future settlement proceeds [note 10 (a)]	75,674,697	77,414,042
	\$ 99,194,226	\$ 92,818,662

### Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 972,932	\$ 505,181
Deferred revenue	—	162,668
Current portion of long-term debt	61,071	—
Current portion of claims loan agreement [note 10(c)]	377,257	—
	1,411,260	667,849
Long-term debt (note 9)	119,195	—
Claims loan agreement [note 10(c)]	9,289,170	9,119,272
Deferred income taxes	—	5,275
Fund balances (note 11):		
Education and training fund balance	488,123	728,573
Land claim settlement fund balance	87,886,478	82,297,693
	88,374,601	83,026,266
Settlement lands [note 10(b)]		
	\$ 99,194,226	\$ 92,818,662

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



## GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

### Land Claim Settlement Fund

#### Consolidated Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Fund Balances

Year ended March 31, 1995, with comparative figures for 1994

	1995	1994 (Restated)
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Sales	\$ 6,196,851	\$ 1,196,811
Interest on land claim settlement proceeds	7,050,122	6,988,768
Interest and other	495,406	58,959
	<u>13,742,379</u>	<u>8,244,538</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Cost of sales	5,675,143	1,100,331
Selling, general and administrative	755,410	325,028
Depreciation and amortization	357,786	74,323
Interest on claims loan agreement	547,156	516,185
Interest on long-term debt	16,462	—
Education and training	150,725	17,825
Other	61,603	9,227
	<u>7,564,285</u>	<u>2,042,919</u>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditures before the undemoted</b>	<b>6,178,094</b>	<b>6,201,619</b>
<b>Other:</b>		
Forgiveness of debt	36,389	—
Management fee	(120,000)	(15,000)
Goodwill write-off on acquisition	—	(84,728)
Contribution to operations	(625,990)	(39,010)
Distribution of Willow Creek royalties to Aklavik Gwich'in Council	(140,407)	—
	<u>(850,008)</u>	<u>(138,738)</u>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditures before income taxes</b>	<b>5,328,086</b>	<b>6,062,881</b>
<b>Income taxes:</b>		
Current (recovery)	(14,974)	—
Deferred (reduction)	(5,275)	5,275
	<u>(20,249)</u>	<u>5,275</u>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>5,348,335</b>	<b>6,057,606</b>
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year (note 11)</b>	<b>83,026,266</b>	<b>76,968,660</b>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 88,374,601</b>	<b>\$ 83,026,266</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

### Land Claim Settlement Fund

#### Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 1995, with comparative figures for 1994

	1995	1994 (Restated)
<b>Cash provided by (used in):</b>		
<b>Operations:</b>		
Surplus for the year	\$ 5,348,335	\$ 6,057,606
Items which do not involve cash:		
Deferred income taxes	(5,275)	5,275
Depreciation and amortization	357,786	74,323
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(1,495,402)	(276,160)
Inventory	(67,406)	(47,019)
Work in progress	(49,737)	—
Unbilled costs on contracts in progress	294,848	(294,848)
Prepaid expenses	(9,878)	(5,310)
Future settlement proceeds	(253,262)	(2,311,426)
Accounts payable	467,751	505,181
Deferred revenue	(162,668)	162,668
	<u>4,425,092</u>	<u>3,870,290</u>
<b>Financing:</b>		
Long-term debt	180,266	—
Claims loan agreement	547,155	516,185
	<u>727,421</u>	<u>516,185</u>
<b>Investments:</b>		
Mortgages receivable	(345,251)	(279,749)
Notes receivable	767,707	(801,026)
Purchase of long-term investments	(283,125)	—
Purchase of income producing properties	(1,783,190)	(3,242,527)
Proceeds from disposal of income producing properties	24,351	—
Purchase of capital assets	(1,351,503)	(287,909)
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets	80,560	—
	<u>(2,890,451)</u>	<u>(4,611,211)</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash and short-term investments</b>	<b>2,262,062</b>	<b>(224,736)</b>
<b>Cash and short-term investments, beginning of year</b>	<b>10,244,395</b>	<b>10,469,131</b>
<b>Cash and short-term investments, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 12,506,457</b>	<b>\$ 10,244,395</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 1995

Gwich'in Tribal Council (the "Council") is an aboriginal organization that represents approximately 2,400 Gwich'in in the Mackenzie Delta of the Northwest Territories. The Council was established in 1983 by the Band Councils and Metis Locals of the four communities of Aklavik, Arctic Red River, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. The Council is incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act.

## 1. Significant accounting policies:

### (a) Fund accounting:

A fund basis of accounting has been followed. Related revenue, expenditures, assets and surplus have been grouped into funds, based upon their purpose.

### (b) Principles of consolidation:

#### (i) Operations fund:

The consolidated financial statements include the operating accounts of the Council and the revenue, expenditures, assets and liabilities of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute.

#### (ii) Land Claim Settlement fund:

The consolidated financial statements include the land claim settlement accounts of the Council and the revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities of the following entities:

Entity	Year ended
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	March 31, 1995
Gwich'in Development Corporation	December 31, 1994
Gwich'in Land Corporation	March 31, 1995
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	March 31, 1995
Gwich'in Trust	March 31, 1995

### (c) Inventory:

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on a first-in, first-out basis.

### (d) Long-term investments:

The investments in Larga Ltd. and 3180018 Manitoba Ltd. are accounted for using the equity method. Under the equity method, the original cost of the shares is adjusted for the Council's share of post-acquisition earnings or losses less dividends received.

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1995

## 1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

### (e) Capital assets:

#### (i) Operations

Capital assets are expensed in the year of acquisition. The accounts "Capital assets" and "Equity in Capital Assets" reflect the historical cost of all assets acquired by the Council. No provision for depreciation has been recorded in these financial statements.

#### (ii) Land Claim Settlement

Capital assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is provided using the following methods and annual rates:

Asset	Basis	Rate
Building - Klondike River Lodge	Declining balance	5% - 10%
Construction camp	Declining balance	10%
Automotive	Declining balance	30%
Heavy equipment, trailers and accessories	Straight-line	10% - 15%
Equipment and tools	Declining balance	20%
Furniture and fixtures	Declining balance	20%
Computer hardware and software	Declining balance	30%
Orthophoto data	Declining balance	30%
Satellite data	Straight-line	20 Years
Acquisition costs	Straight-line	5 Years
Goodwill	Straight-line	10 Years

### (f) Income producing properties:

Income producing properties are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided using the following methods and annual rates when the properties begin to generate revenues:

Asset	Basis	Rate
Buildings	Declining balance	5%
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	5 years
Furniture	Declining balance	10%
Construction camp	Declining balance	10%



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1995

1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

(g) Revenue recognition:

(i) Operations:

Certain amounts are received for future core and program funding. The funds may be used for specific projects or they may be allocated to on-going operations at the discretion of the Council.

Revenue is recorded in the period specified in the funding agreements entered into with government agencies and other organizations. Funding received in advance of making the related expenditures is recorded as deferred revenue.

(ii) Land Claim Settlement:

Settlement claim proceeds and interest less direct expenses are included in the Land Claim Settlement Fund. These funds may be transferred to any designated Gwich'in Organization at the Direction of the Council. Designated Gwich'in Organizations include:

Aklavik Gwich'in Council	Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council
Gwicha Gwich'in Council	Tetlit Gwich'in Council
Gwich'in Tribal Council	Gwich'in Land Corporation
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	Gwich'in Development Corporation
Gwich'in Trust	

Contract revenue and costs on fixed price contracts are reflected in income upon the completion of individual contracts. For cost-plus contracts, revenue including the agreed upon up-charge is recognized as costs are incurred. Losses on contracts in progress are recognized as soon as they can be estimated.

(h) Government assistance:

The Council periodically applies for financial assistance under available government incentive programs. Government assistance related to capital expenditures is reflected as a reduction of the costs of such assets. Government assistance related to operations is recorded as revenue.

2. Loans receivable:

Loans receivable represent two loans made under the Housing Assistance Program (HAP). These loans are secured by promissory notes and bear interest at 6%.

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1995

3. Short-term investments:

Short-term investments are recorded at cost, or at cost less amounts written off to reflect a decline in value which is other than temporary. Short-term investments are comprised of provincial and federal government bonds.

4. Notes receivable:

	1995	1994
Note with interest on the principal sum calculated at a rate of 8% per annum compounded semi-annually, repayable on demand	\$ 33,319	\$ -
Note with interest on the principal sum calculated at a rate of 8% per annum compounded semi-annually, repayable on demand	-	169,799
Note with interest on the principal sum calculated at a rate of 8% per annum compounded semi-annually, repayable on demand	-	133,227
Arctic Red River Incorporated Band Ltd., unsecured, at a rate of 8% per annum and repayable on demand	-	282,000
Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd., unsecured, at a rate of 8% per annum and repayable on demand	-	216,000
	\$ 33,319	\$ 801,026

5. Mortgages receivable:

	1995	1994
Arctic Red River Incorporated Band Ltd., 8% mortgage receivable in monthly installments of \$1,672 including interest, due December 31, 2008	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000
933336 NWT Ltd., 12% mortgage receivable in monthly installments of interest only	450,000	-
Aklavik Gwich'in Council, non-interest bearing and repayable on demand	-	104,749
	625,000	279,749
Current portion of mortgage receivable	175,000	6,296
	\$ 450,000	\$ 273,453



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1995

5. Mortgages receivable, continued:

The Corporation has been advised that the Arctic Red River Incorporated Band Ltd. mortgage will be repaid in 1995. Accordingly, it has been included in the current portion of mortgages receivable.

The mortgage receivable from 933336 NWT Ltd. is due on demand; it has been classified as non-current as the Council does not anticipate requiring repayment prior to August 31, 1996.

6. Long-term investments:

	1995	1994
Investments in associated companies:		
Larga Ltd. (37.5% interest)	\$ 262,500	\$ -
3180018 Manitoba Ltd. (25% interest)	20,625	-
	\$ 283,125	\$ -

7. Income producing properties:

	1995	1994
Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Net book value
Housing - Ft. McPherson	\$ 918,552	\$ 895,524
- Aklavik	287,656	-
- Inuvik three bedroom	143,944	121,153
- Inuvik four-plex	455,976	431,403
Inuvik office and shop	305,985	-
TI'oondih Healing Camp	1,384,597	437,408
Office building - Fort McPherson	751,508	686,346
- Inuvik	648,420	615,122
Leasehold improvements	9,458	-
Construction camp	80,560	-
Furniture	14,710	-
Other	-	24,351
	\$5,001,366	\$ 3,211,307

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1995

8. Capital assets - Land Claim Settlement:

	1995	1994
Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Net book value
Land	\$ 37,454	\$ -
Building - Klondike River Lodge	347,184	340,280
Construction camp	-	89,511
Automotive	129,683	52,377
Heavy equipment, trailers and accessories	550,617	-
Equipment and tools	144,284	32,667
Furniture and fixtures	7,573	2,204
Computer hardware and software	113,791	45,878
Orthophoto data	3,500	-
Satellite data	23,336	22,169
Acquisition costs	101,045	-
Goodwill	86,943	-
	\$1,545,410	\$ 244,806

9. Long-term debt:

	1995	1994
Prime plus 2% demand loan, payable in monthly installments of \$2,433 including interest, secured by a fixed and floating debenture over a subsidiary company's assets and equipment	\$ 95,059	-
Prime plus 2% demand loan, payable in monthly installments of \$3,096 including interest, secured by a fixed and floating debenture over a subsidiary company's assets and equipment	58,540	-
Gwich'in Business Development Fund 6% loan payable in monthly installments of \$811 including interest, due December 31, 1997	26,667	-
	180,266	-
Current portion of long-term debt	61,071	-
	\$ 119,195	\$ -

The bank has agreed to a schedule of repayments as noted above for the demand loans and accordingly these loans are classified as long-term liabilities.



## GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1995

### 9. Long-term debt, continued:

Long-term debt is repayable as follows:

1995	\$	61,071
1996		57,270
1997		34,286
1998		27,599
1999		40

### 10. Comprehensive land claims agreement:

#### (a) Future settlement proceeds:

On April 22, 1992, the Council and the Government of Canada signed a Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement. The Agreement provides for settlement claims of \$141,118,195 including interest to be transferred to the Council over fifteen years. As at March 31, 1995, the Council has received \$19,878,466 including interest.

Future settlement proceeds consists of the following:

	1995	1994
Future settlement proceeds principal	\$ 69,190,104	\$ 69,190,104
Accrued interest	8,477,200	8,223,938
	77,667,304	77,414,042
Current portion of future settlement proceeds	1,992,607	—
	\$ 75,674,697	\$ 77,414,042

Future settlement proceeds, including interest, are to be received as follows:

April 22, 1995	\$	8,361,360
April 22, 1996		10,451,701
April 22, 1997		10,451,701
April 22, 1998		10,451,701
April 22, 1999 and all subsequent years		81,523,266
		\$121,239,729

## GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1995

### 10. Comprehensive land claims agreement, continued:

#### (b) Settlement lands:

The Council will receive, in the near future, title to the following lands:

16,264 square kilometers of land excluding mines and mineral rights;

6,065 square kilometers of land including mines and mineral rights; and

93 square kilometers of land only for mines and mineral rights.

No value has been assigned to these lands for financial statement purposes.

#### (c) Claims loan agreement:

The agreement provides for funds to be advanced to the Council by the Government of Canada for direct settlement expenses. These advances bear interest at 6% and are to be repaid as first charge against future settlement claims.

The Council has also agreed to repay a portion of a loan to the Dene Nation and Metis Association of the NWT. These advances also bear interest at 6% and are to be repaid as first charge against future settlement claims.

Claims loan agreement consists of the following:

	1995	1994
Claims loan agreement principal	\$ 8,145,172	\$ 8,145,172
Accrued interest	1,521,255	974,100
	9,666,427	9,119,272
Current portion of claims loan agreement	377,257	—
	\$ 9,289,170	\$ 9,119,272

Scheduled repayments, including interest, are as follows:

April 22, 1995	\$	906,292
April 22, 1996		1,132,865
April 22, 1997		1,132,865
April 22, 1998		1,132,865
April 22, 1999 and all subsequent years		8,836,352
		\$ 13,141,239



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1995

11. Land Claim Settlement fund balances:

	March 31, 1994	Surplus allocations	March 31, 1995
Education and training fund	\$ 728,573	\$ (240,450)	\$ 488,123
Land Claim Settlement fund	82,297,693	5,588,785	87,886,478
	<u>\$ 83,026,266</u>	<u>\$ 5,348,335</u>	<u>\$ 88,374,601</u>

12. Income taxes:

The Council's subsidiaries have losses carried forward for income tax purposes of \$609,185 available to reduce taxable income in future years up to 2001. The potential benefit of these losses has not been reflected in the financial statements.

13. Comparative figures:

In the prior year, the revenue, expenditures, assets and liabilities of the Gwich'in Business Development Fund were combined with the operations of the Council for reporting purposes in the consolidated financial statements. The activities of this fund have been removed from these financial statements and reported separately. The prior year has been restated to conform with this change in reporting practice.

In the prior year, the revenue, expenditures, assets and liabilities of the Gwich'in Education and Training Fund were recorded as part of the Operations fund. In the current year, these activities have been reflected as part of the Land Claim Settlement fund. The prior year has been restated to conform with this change in reporting practice.

The prior year results for the Land Claim Settlement fund have been restated to reflect an adjustment required to correct an error identified in the current year. As a result of this adjustment, goodwill write-off on acquisition and accounts payable for the period ended March 31, 1994 has been increased by \$51,785.

In addition, certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.

BACK COVER

*The Gwich'in Geographic Information Program*

The back cover image of the Fort McPherson region was produced by Gwich'in Geographics Ltd. from Landsat satellite data. The satellite mapping project is one part of the geographic information program being implemented by the Gwich'in.

New maps needed

Since the signing of the Gwich'in Agreement, there has been a need for up-to-date maps which can be readily modified and reproduced.

Most regional maps are based on aerial photographs taken decades ago. Since the maps were drawn, there have been many changes, particularly in river channels.

Computerized mapping now makes it possible to produce customized maps in the Gwich'in offices. These maps can be linked to up-to-date catalogues of cabin sites, parcel ownership, and many other types of information.

Satellite remote sensing

The Landsat TM satellite was chosen as the initial data source for a new regional mapping

program. The sensor responds to several types of visible and non-visible light, and the resulting data can be processed in many different colour combinations.

In the back cover image, for example, areas with leafy or grassy vegetation are light green, while recently burned areas are red. Silty water and clear water are shown in two distinct hues. The same data can be pictured in entirely different colour schemes to suit different mapping and analysis needs.

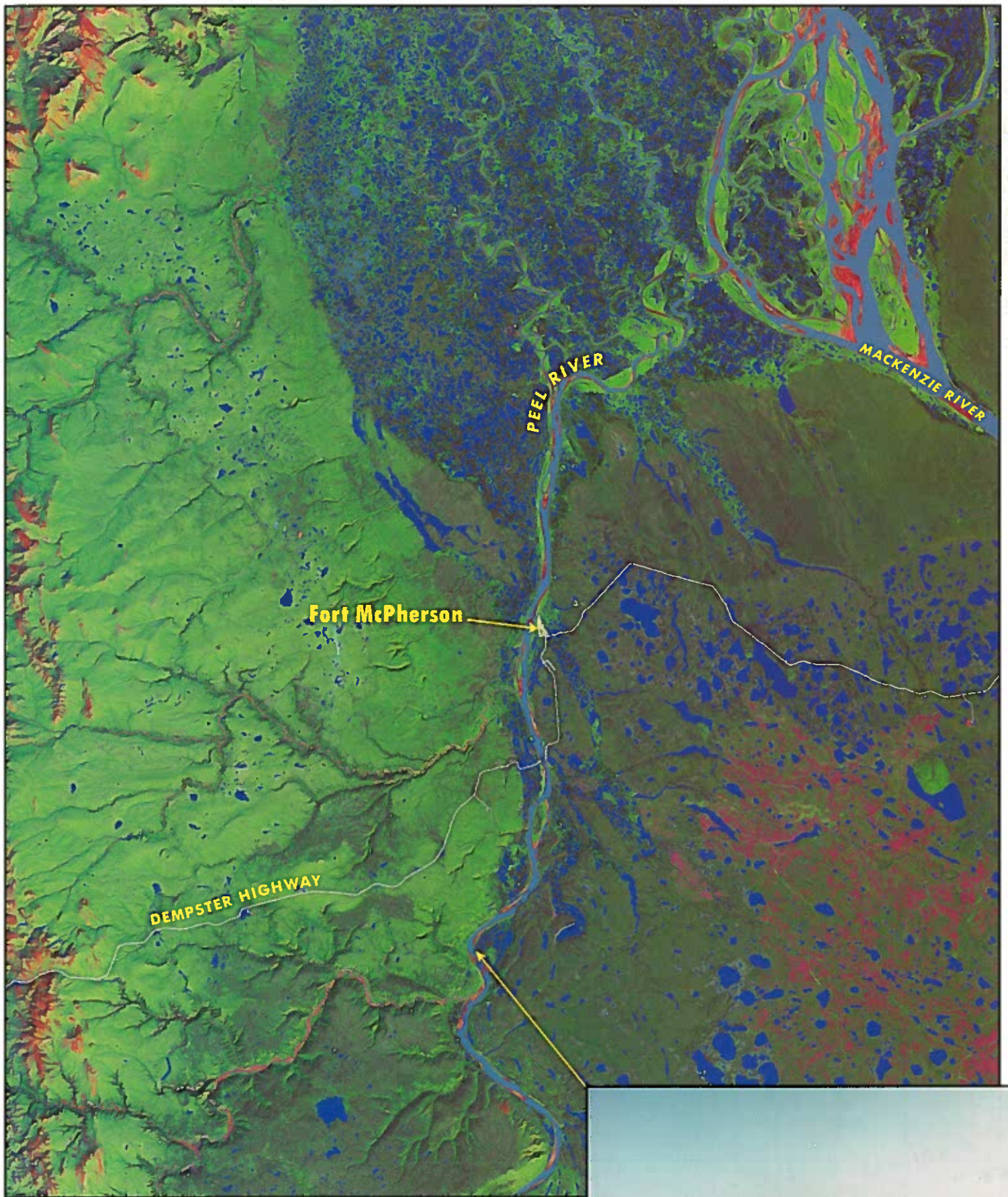
The satellite data set now in use by the Gwich'in has been geometrically corrected to match the most commonly-used map projections. The images can be displayed and printed at scales up to 1:50,000.

Future mapping projects

Gwich'in employees have already begun new projects using the satellite images. Cabin sites are currently being marked on a satellite basemap.

The data is also being used to classify and quantify vegetation cover. In coming years, these maps will complement personal knowledge in protecting Gwich'in land and promoting Gwich'in culture.





*Tl'oondih Healing Camp is located about 20 miles south of Fort McPherson on the banks of the Peel River.*

Photo of Tl'oondih by Walter Firth. Satellite image map by Gwich'in Geographics Ltd.

