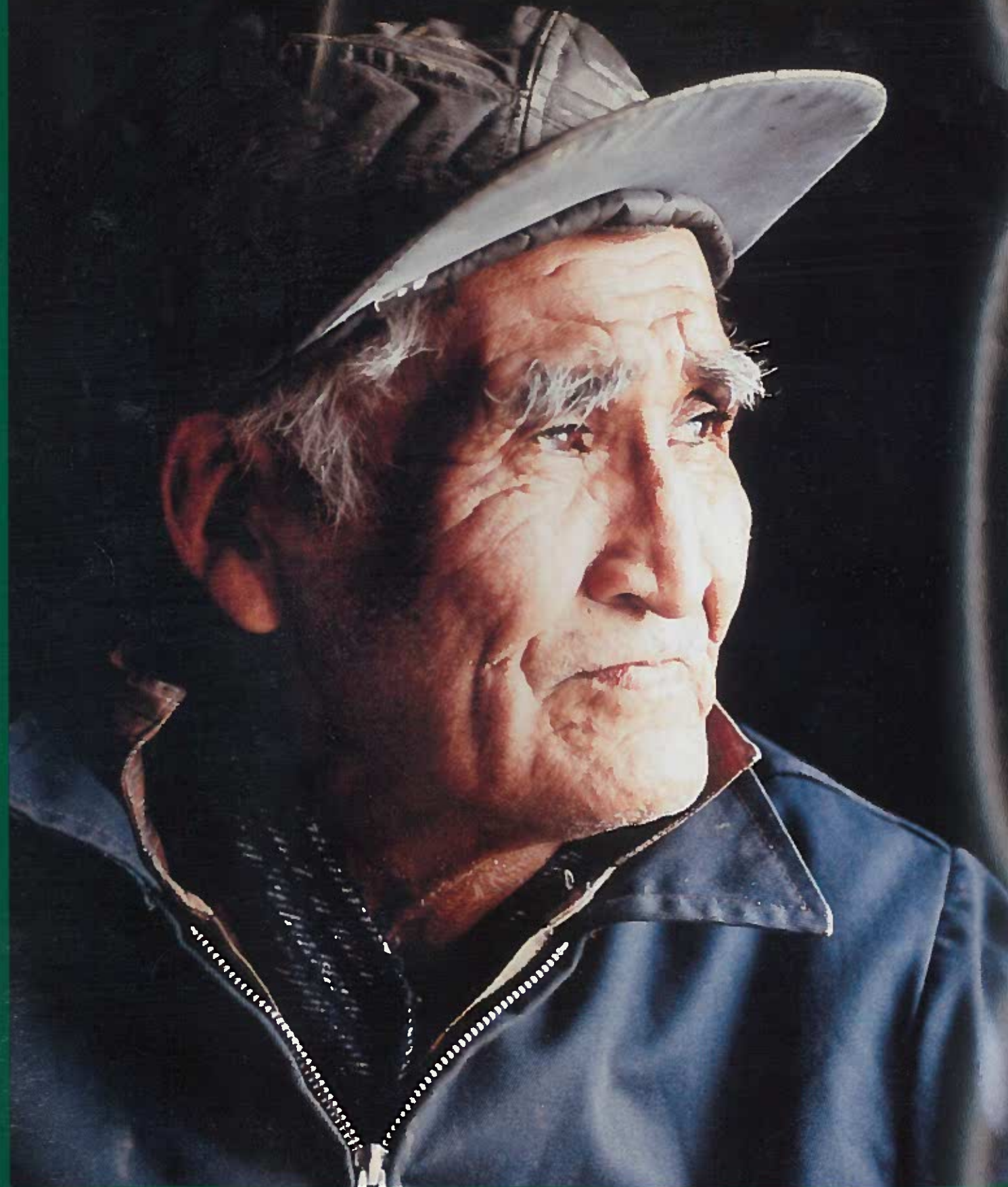


Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual Report 1995~'96



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

The Gwich'in Tribal Council Salute to Elders



Land, Culture and Economy for a better future



Land~As demonstrated by the vibrant fireweed. **Culture**~Candice Mitchell of Tsiigehtchic picking berries near Midway lake.

Economy~Douglas Pascal of Tetlit Zheh Trucking drives the Western Star.

Cover photos: GGL, Stewart & Weir and GRRB ♦ Above: Alestine Andre & Robert A. Alexie

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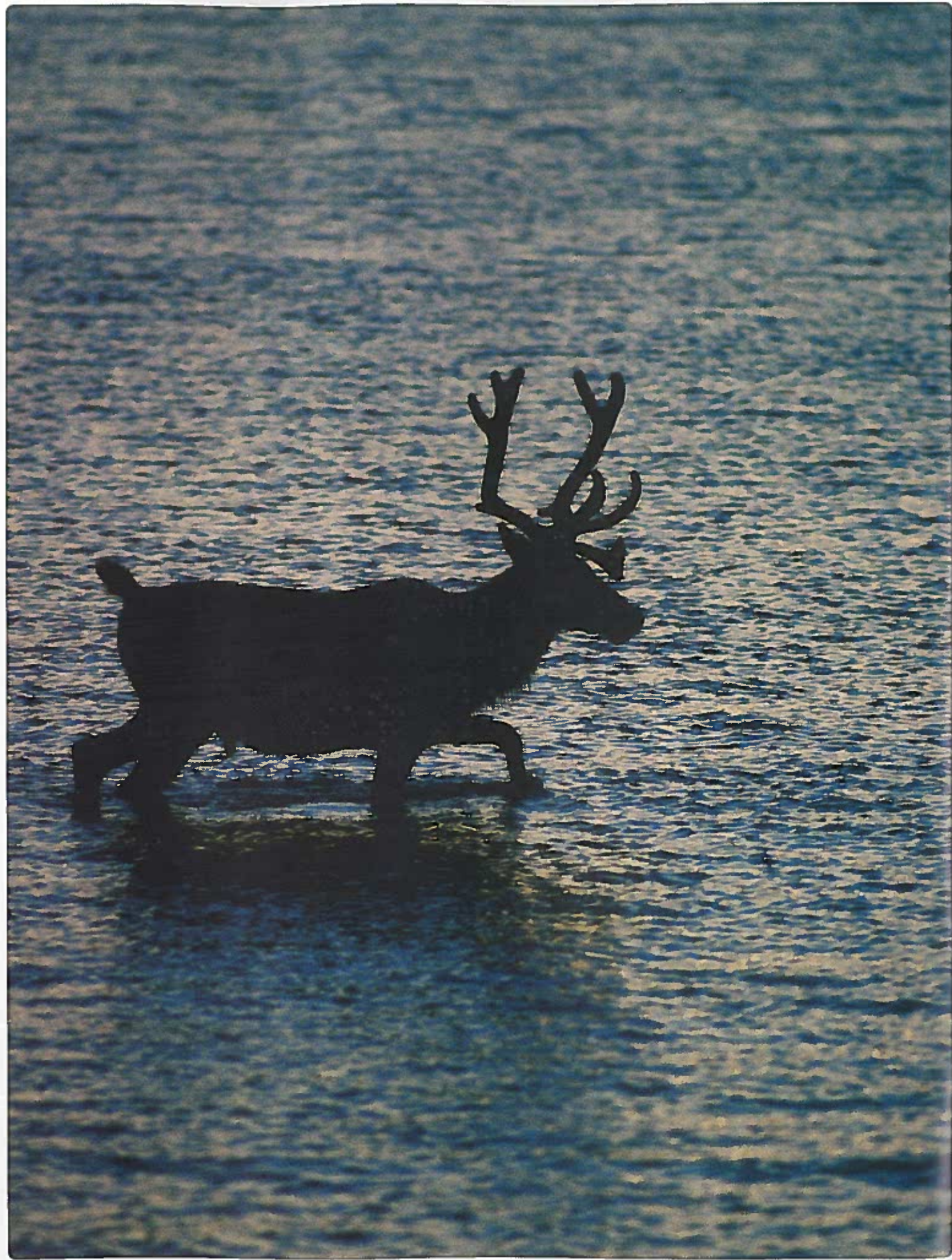
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Produced and designed by

Gwich'in Geographics Ltd. Inuvik, NT
Mapping ♦ Computer Consulting ♦ Publishing

Welcome to this year's Report!
We'll walk you through it
and explain important terms along the way
...if you turn the pages for us!





Willard Hagen President's Message

The activities of the Gwich'in Tribal Council have expanded tremendously. Six years ago, we began negotiating a regional land claim for the Gwich'in of the Northwest Territories. Today, we have successful Gwich'in businesses in place. We have begun self-government negotiations and most of the boards created to fulfil the goals of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement are in operation.

♦ Business

Gwich'in-owned businesses contribute in many ways to the strength of our people. These businesses provide training opportunities in all our communities, generate wages to support our families and promote independence and self-reliance. In addition to construction trades, professional service jobs such as accounting, computer services and translation positions are created.

A major goal of the Land Claim is to increase Gwich'in involvement in business. As president, I devoted an increasing share of my time to overseeing our subsidiary operations. During the past few years our construction companies, Tetlit Zheh Construction and Tetlit Zheh Trucking, have become major regional employers. Together, these two companies employ up to 400 people at peak seasons and will complete about \$15 million in contracts this year.

Tetlit Zheh Construction is the prime contractor for some of the largest construction projects in the region, including the new school in Fort

McPherson and the new recreation centre in Inuvik. This year the company will renovate and expand the Chief Andrew Stewart Building in Aklavik, which houses the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council and Gwich'in Land Administration.

Tetlit Zheh Trucking (TZT) provides road maintenance services for major sections of the Dempster Highway. TZT recently began long distance hauling operations in association with RTL Trucking in Yellowknife.

As president, it is my goal to ensure that all our companies remain profitable so that our economic base is preserved and expanded for future generations. I am happy to report that we are achieving this goal.

♦ Self-government

We have been active in political forums, continuing our negotiations for increased self-government. Self-government to the Gwich'in Nation means having a public government system in the Beaufort/Delta region with emphasis on community government. This will give us greater control over the delivery of programs and services to our people. We are working closely with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to bring many operations of the Government of the Northwest Territories into regional control. When the Territories divide in 1999, many GNWT programs will be administered in our region. Our inherent right to self-government will be protected regardless of decisions made in the self-government negotiation process.



Photo: Walter Firth

♦ Land and Water Board

The last major implementing organization of the land claim, the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, is beginning operations this year. I serve as a director of this Board, which will take over land use permitting procedures for the Gwich'in Settlement Region from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

♦ Conclusion

The Gwich'in have taken charge of many new responsibilities and opportunities. All four Gwich'in communities in our Settlement Area have emphasized greater community involvement and self-government negotiations as priorities. The Gwich'in Tribal Council and I fully support both endeavours and encourage everyone to be a part of these processes. As president for six years, it has been my great pleasure to work with all of you who are dedicated to our Gwich'in land, culture and economy.

Inherent right to self-government for Gwich'in is based on the right to govern ourselves in community matters and aspects that are integral to our culture, identity, traditions, language and institutions.



Dolly Carmichael Vice-President's Message

Photo: GCT



During the past year, I have taken on new roles and continued with previous responsibilities as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Specifically, I was involved in:

- ♦ Representing the Gwich'in Tribal Council at various agency meetings and on committees;
- ♦ Developing the Gwich'in Harvesters' Trust;
- ♦ Overseeing Gwich'in businesses; and,
- ♦ Enhancing educational opportunities for Gwich'in beneficiaries.

♦ Gwich'in Tribal Council Representation

I attended monthly meetings of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and represented the Gwich'in Tribal Council on the Gwich'in Enrolment Board. When requested, I attended local Gwich'in Council or Renewable Resources Council meetings and met with Economic Development and Tourism regarding our status — and any changes to funding agreements. I assist local Gwich'in Councils in band support projects such as finance, funding, and

bereavement related activities. Together with Bob Simpson and Larry Firth, we developed guidelines for restructuring the "Pathways to Success" training program.

I was appointed to the Western Arctic Business Development Services Board to replace Wanda McDonald who is away on a training program. I also work with Bart Kreps, Joe Benoit and the Renewable Resources Councils on issues concerning the Gwich'in Land Administration.

♦ Education

Over the last year I worked on a variety of programs related to education. As an advisor for the scholarship committee, I work with Sarah Jerome, assisting students to apply for scholarships and other educational funding. We meet with representatives from Aurora College on student concerns and to discuss programs available through the college.

♦ Gwich'in Harvesters' Trust

I spent a great deal of time developing the Gwich'in Harvesters' Trust with the assistance of John Brownlee. In late January, the government approved our proposal — and in February money that matched the contribution made by the Gwich'in Tribal Council was deposited into a trust account. The interest from this fund will

be used to assist harvesters in areas related to renewable resources. Some activities that may be funded are on-the-land education programs, trappers' workshops and assistance to purchase basic supplies.

♦ Gwich'in Development Corporation

In addition to attending regular meetings, I am actively involved in Gwich'in businesses. A majority of my time is spent reviewing Tetlit Zheh Construction's operation, reviewing financial records, verifying and signing cheques and keeping up-to-date on projects. With Gwich'in Geographics, I review work plans, staffing and finances.

Work began on a system for registering Gwich'in businesses. We plan to establish policy guidelines and a classification system of what constitutes a Gwich'in-owned business. This will help Gwich'in companies to get a share of work in our settlement area — as identified in the economic chapter of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

♦ Summary

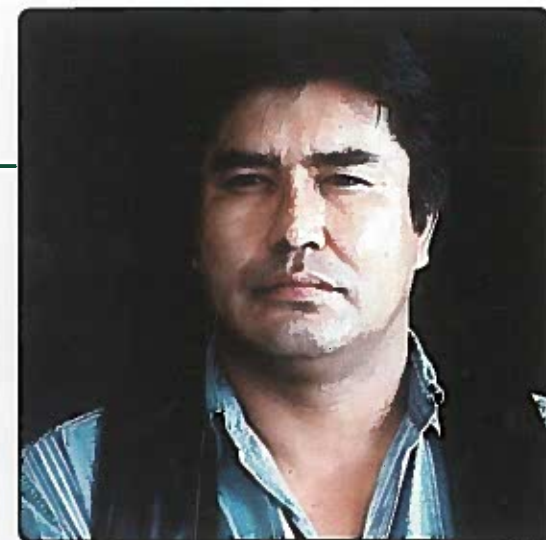
In closing, I would like to thank the directors and staff for the support I received over the last year. I extend a special thank you to the Elders for their advice and encouragement which helped me through some difficult times.

The Gwich'in Harvesters' Trust may fund activities such as trappers' workshops, supplies and on-the-land education programs.



Robert A. Alexie Vice-President's Message

Photo: Walter Firth



In the fall of 1986, I was invited to sit on the Board of Directors for Fort McPherson Incorporated Band Ltd. Since then, I have been employed as the Band Manager, General Manager for the Incorporated Band Ltd., Band Councilor, Sub-Chief, Chief and Chief Negotiator for the Gwich'in Claim. I have spent the last four years with the Tribal Council serving as one of two Vice-Presidents. It has been a long, interesting and educational process which I enjoyed.

♦ Leadership

We have come a long way since 1990 when we had a few offices in the Boreal Building in Inuvik. One reason we came so far in such a short time is due in large part to the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board which provided good direction and developed a strong and cooperative team to meet the objectives of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. I would particularly like to thank Willard Hagen for his leadership over the past six years. Willard came along at a time when strong and decisive leadership was required and led us through some very trying times with Land Claim negotiations, implementation and start-up of new businesses.

♦ Business

Over the last year, we have employed many of our people with Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd. and Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd. This coming year will be bigger and better than ever with the new school being constructed — without problems, despite concern from some individuals who said it couldn't be done.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council is currently pursuing a self-government agreement with Canada to give us (along with the Inuvialuit) more control and flexibility in how we are governed and how we want our region to grow. While self-government means independence to some degree, it is not the answer to all of our problems and concerns. Self-government without some measure of self-sufficiency is very difficult to achieve and maintain.

This is one reason I see the Gwich'in Development Corporation taking an active and meaningful role in our economy. By providing employment, training and business opportunities to our people we provide ourselves with an opportunity to become less dependent on the system.

♦ Healing Society

The Tl'oondih Healing Society began operating in June, 1995 at the Tl'oondih Healing Camp. We have had six full programs with over 200 men, women and children taking part. Our goal is to become independent by seeking funding from the territorial government, the federal government and the private sector.

Many people have concerns with the camp and what we are doing... but those numbers are changing as people take a different look at our program and its uniqueness.

The Tl'oondih Healing Society also provided employment and training to more than 20 people over the last year. We have to plan for the future. The question we must answer for ourselves and as Gwich'in people is: "Where do we want to be in five or ten years?" We must be realistic and take into account the economy of this region and our country. Rather than dwell on the negative, we must look at alternatives and options and explore what we as individuals and as an organization can do.

♦ Goals

I have specific goals for myself and for the Gwich'in that I would like to see happen. A lot of our people are employed as labourers and are not getting into professional fields or trades. We need people to educate themselves and take on the responsibility of professional work. It is very difficult to return to school later in life. It is important to choose a career where the jobs will be in greatest demand. One thing I have learned from working with the Tl'oondih Healing Society is that we all have choices and we are responsible for our own lives and the direction we take. We cannot hold other people or governments responsible for our decisions.

I have not made any decisions about my future with the Gwich'in Tribal Council at this time (May 3, 1996), but I will do what is right for myself and my family.

It has been a great learning experience working for the Gwich'in over the last five years as Chief Negotiator and as Vice-President. I am very proud of what we have achieved to date and of the people who contributed to this process.

I would like to thank the many people who support what we are doing and who encourage us to continue working for our people.

Mussi and have a nice summer...



Larry Firth

Executive Director's Report

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) completed another successful year. Employment, training, implementation of the Land and Water Board and establishment of the Harvesters' Assistance Program were high priorities for the executive and directors of the GTC this year. We accomplished the following goals:

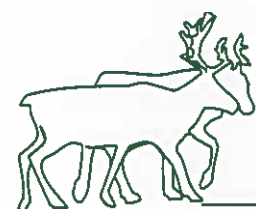
♦ Employment and Training

Our finance employees enrolled in the Accounting Technician Program and proved it is never too late to go back to school. The accounting program was very useful as seen by the high quality of work our employees produce. We recommend to others who are unable to leave home or go to college or university to take this correspondence program.

The education and training coordinator position is now filled and programs are being implemented. The education and training office is open to all students who want to continue their education at a technical college or university. Contact the education and training coordinator to assist you in applying for post-secondary scholarships or for any training or education requirements.

Tetlit Zheh Trucking and Tetlit Zheh Construction continue to be our major employers and trainers. Many more opportunities exist where there were none before. Privatization of the highways is almost complete and working well. Keep in touch with our education and training coordinator for more opportunities with these two companies.

The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was signed in 1992 and guarantees Gwich'in people specific rights, benefits and opportunities.



♦ Land and Water Board

An executive director and an executive secretary have been hired for the Land and Water Board. The start-up of this Board will create more employment and economic opportunities for our graduating students and others who are interested in the environmental field. The Land and Water Board is located in the Chief Jim Koe Building in Inuvik.

♦ Funding

Pathways-To-Success funding is a major source of financing for Gwich'in education and training needs. This has been transferred from HRDC (Human Resources Development Canada) to a tripartite management group consisting of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Sahtu. We now have greater control and administration of our federal training funds.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council entered into a five-year block (core) funding arrangement with Indian and Inuit Affairs (I&IA) for the first time. The GTC is the first Tribal Council in the NWT to do this, in large part due to the confidence that Indian and Inuit Affairs has

in the accountability and administration of the GTC. I&IA independently audited and examined our administrative practices and policies. They recommended to Ottawa we be given the opportunity to be the first NWT Tribal Council to be block-funded for a five-year period. This says a lot for the staff you have working for you.

CAEDS (Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Services), a federal Indian and Inuit Affairs loan program administered by the GTC on behalf of the four Gwich'in Councils, has been transferred back to the communities. The community Gwich'in councils will now be your first contact for funding through this program. CAEDS has been a very successful program, giving our members the required financing to expand and start new businesses.

The Gwich'in Harvesters' Assistance Program is finally in place following more than a year of hard work. Look to your RRCS for more information as this program develops.

♦ Summary

The Gwich'in Tribal Council anticipates another full year ahead of us. We encourage all Gwich'in Beneficiaries to take an active role in your Tribal Council by attending Council meetings and providing Council members with your ideas, comments and suggestions. Your involvement is vital to the progress of the Gwich'in Nation.



George Greenland of Tetlit Zheh Construction.

GTC Executive List

Board of Directors:
Gwich'in Land Corporation

Board of Directors:
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation

Board of Directors:
Gwich'in Development Corporation

*Willard Hagen
Robert Alexie Jr.
Dolly Carmichael
Chief James Firth
Chief Eugene Pascal
Chief Grace Blake
Chief William Koe*

Gwich'in Trust Trustees

*Willard Hagen
James Firth
Tommy Wright*

The Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) is the land in the NWT which is part of the land claim agreement.



Bob Simpson

Self-government Negotiations



A 1993 self-government proposal to create a Regional Council and governing system for the Beaufort/Delta region was approved by the Gwich'in at the Aklavik Annual Assembly. A self-government agreement is being negotiated jointly with the Inuvialuit and municipalities within the region.

♦ Self-government Committee

A self-government committee was formed to negotiate the self-government agreement. The Committee consists of members from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and municipal governments. The committee lobbied the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to appoint a negotiator to begin the negotiations. John Bayly was appointed in the fall of 1995. At about the same time, the Government of Canada approved and released their long awaited policy on the Inherent Right of Self-government. This policy sets out the general conditions for self-government negotiations and allows for the constitutional protection of certain elements of self-government agreements.

Gabriella Sparling was appointed negotiator for the Government of the Northwest Territories. The GNWT has yet to develop a policy on self-government, and continues to consult with Aboriginal groups.

Charlie Furlong is the Gwich'in Chief Negotiator after being appointed by the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors. The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's Board of Directors recently appointed Vince Teddy as their negotiator. The collective leadership of the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and the municipal governments appointed Bob Simpson as Chief Negotiator.

♦ Timeline

The negotiators met at least once a month to develop a process and timetable for negotiations. The Process and Schedule Agreement was concluded in March, 1996 with the Gwich'in Councils (DGOS) and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation approving this Agreement. The Agreement will be initialled in May and signed in June by the respective parties. Designated Gwich'in Organizations in each community formally approved by resolution that the Gwich'in Tribal Council negotiate a self-government agreement.

The federal and territorial government negotiators have not received instructions from their governments to negotiate a self-government agreement. All of the parties discussed the

nature of self-government within the Beaufort/Delta and these discussions resulted in proposals for each government to approve. We anticipate the federal government will approve the proposal in early May, 1996 and the territorial government will approve its proposal in June, 1996.

♦ What Is Being Negotiated

Full negotiations begin this year. A detailed work plan and process for negotiations is in place for this year. The work plan will be the basis for approval of funding. The work plan proposes to complete subagreements on:

- ♦ Government Structures and Authorities;
- ♦ Education, Culture and Training;
- ♦ Health;
- ♦ Social Services; and,
- ♦ Administration of Justice.

As well, the negotiators will develop two discussion papers to guide negotiations and involve the communities. The second discussion paper will describe a possible self-government agreement and will be produced by April 1997.

Bob Simpson

Gwich'in Land Claim Implementation

The Gwich'in Implementation Committee was created to ensure that the rights and responsibilities of Gwich'in and government departments are met as set out in the Land Claim Agreement. The Implementation Committee manages the activities and resources identified in the Gwich'in Implementation Plan.

♦ Self-government Negotiations

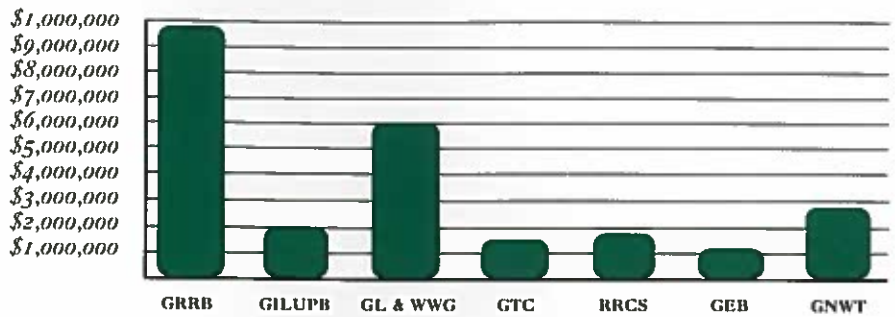
The Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation initiated self-government negotiations with the Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories to fulfil the land claim obligations of those governments to negotiate a self-government agreement. The Tribal Council received \$150,000 to prepare for negotiations.

♦ Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

The most intense implementation activity involved developing the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. The Act will create several boards to regulate land use, water use and the environment, as well as create a land use plan. Government officials, the Sahtu, Dene, Métis and the Gwich'in Tribal Council met eight times over the past year to develop legislation to create the following:

- ♦ The Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board;
- ♦ The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board;
- ♦ The Gwich'in Land and Water Board; and,

1996-'97 Implementation Funding



GHS - Gwich'in Harvest Study, administered by GRRB	\$175,350
GRRB - Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board	\$794,056
GILUPB - Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board	\$192,058
GL & WWG - Gwich'in Land & Water Working Group	\$602,750
GTC - Gwich'in Tribal Council	\$149,239
RRCS - Renewable resource Councils	\$176,817
GEB - Gwich'in Enrolment Board	\$114,763
GNWT - Government of the Northwest Territories	\$272,275

- ♦ A process to conduct Cumulative Impact Monitoring and Environmental Audits.

♦ Environmental Monitoring

The Gwich'in Tribal Council conducted a study to design a cumulative impact monitoring system. Cumulative impact monitoring is a way to find out how several natural and unnatural changes to the land, air and water affect our environment. These changes may be from development (such as a mine) or from nature (such as wind eroding the banks of the Mackenzie River). It is based on the idea that something by itself may have little or no impact on the environment, but may produce dramatic effects in combination with other changes. On a periodic basis, research will be done to get an overall picture of the health of the environment in the Mackenzie Val-

ley. This snapshot in time will let us see how our environment may change in 10, 50 or 100 years from now.

♦ Economic Review

A three year review of economic measures to improve the economy for the Gwich'in has been initiated. The federal and territorial governments provided a thorough report on all economic development projects in the Settlement Area. The Gwich'in Tribal Council will respond as to whether these activities and programs meet the objectives of the land claim agreement.

The Implementation Plan sets out who is responsible for the activities and goals of the Land Claim, how long the activities will take and how much they will cost.

Self-government will not affect your rights as a Canadian citizen.





Photo: GRRB

Above: Dall's sheep in the Richardson Mountains ♦ Below: Custard's Last Band performing at the Pokiak Festival.



Photo: Valerie Kimikuma Kups

Chief Eugene Pascal Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council

It has been a busy year since I was elected Chief in June, 1995. There is a greater focus on the community since I was last in office and we are working with Elders and youth to increase involvement in Band and Gwich'in Council activities. We are holding gatherings and events both in and outside of the community.

♦ Community Review

The Development Corporation is planning an extension to the Chief Andrew Stewart Building with construction starting this spring and scheduled to finish this fall. Part of the extension will include a large meeting room. The Band office staff have a very heavy work load, so we will be hiring an Accountant/Manager to do the financial bookkeeping.

The Gwich'in Land Administration (GLA) has settled into the Chief Andrew Stewart Building with one full-time staff person. Joe Benoit finished school in April and has been hired to manage the GLA.

We now have a business registered under the name of Black Mountain Development Corporation. To date, Black Mountain Development has ownership of the Café and lot, the old Band office and lot, and the wood miser. We are in the process of acquiring the Chief Andrew Stewart Building and lot and the two housing units and lots from Gwich'in Development Corporation.

♦ Community Projects

The Aklavik Gwich'in Council sponsored a few projects this year, including:

- ♦ The Tourism Visitors' Centre;
- ♦ The veranda for the Friendship Centre;
- ♦ The Brighter Futures Fund; and,
- ♦ The stage and dance floor at the Pokiak Festival site.

♦ Designated Gwich'in Organization

Members of the Gwich'in claim will discuss and decide by this summer how the Designated Gwich'in Organization (DGO) will be implemented and how the DGO will relate with the Band and Métis local. The band currently has a draft Band Membership Code, which may change so it will be compatible with the Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement.

♦ Self-government

There will be some major changes to the structure and influence of government in Aklavik. The Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and Hamlet are working together on transferring many government responsibilities in the community and region to local control. The governments have also agreed to work with native organizations on the development of the Western Arctic Constitution.

♦ Summary

We would like to thank Henry Jerome, Eddie McLeod and Eddie Greenland who have been in the Council for the past year. This coming year we will pursue more business ventures and continue our commitment to involve everyone in community affairs.

Council Members

- Chief Eugene Pascal
- Mildred Edwards
- Kathy Greenland
- Elizabeth Kunnissie
- Velma Illasiak
- Anne Semple
- David Edwards

Sub-committee (Personnel and Finance)

- Chief Eugene Pascal
- Elizabeth Kunnissie
- Kathy Greenland
- Mildred Edwards

Gwich'in Tribal Council

- Chief Eugene Pascal
- Anne Semple

Aklavik Aboriginal Committee

- Chief Eugene Pascal
- Velma Illasiak

Ehdiitat

Renewable Resources Council

- Frank Edwards Sr.
- Ian McLeod
- Joe Benoit
- David Edwards
- Fanny Greenland
- Henry Jerome
- James McDonald Sr.

Ehdiitat Gwich'in means timber people





Shiltee Rock Camp on the Peel River.

A personal story by Walter Vittrekwa

Some of the happiest years of my life were when I was growing up in my younger years. It was a special time for me as I learned a lot about my traditions and culture. Around the first of July, after school was finished, my stepdad and Mom, Andrew and Agnes Neyando, would pick-up me and my three sisters Minnie, Irene and Doreen at Flemming Hall, which was the local hostel of our little town of Fort McPherson in the Northwest Territories.

We would all gather our belongings, groceries and gas and then get a truck to haul our supplies down to the Peel River and load everything into a 30 foot scow which was pushed by a 20 horse powered motor. As we cruised down the river, we would enjoy green in the grass, the smell of the leaves and the warm sunshine. After traveling about 20 miles down river, we would stop at the Mouth of the Peel, our summer camp. We didn't exactly stay at the Mouth of the Peel — about half a mile across from there, but we still called

it that anyway. I remember the warm feeling of seeing my grandparents there, George and Sarah Vittrekwa, and my uncles and aunties.

My parents would have tents set beside their fish house where we would put our belongings and groceries. They would have nets already set and after the nets were checked, we would help my mom scale and cut up the fish so they could be dried and smoked. The white-fish would be dried for eating and the coney, herring and crooked backs would be dried for the sled dogs.

On the warm summer days, all the youngsters from across the river and on our side would swim or play games on the sand bars. We would have so much fun we would play until we got chased home, sometimes as late as 1:00 o'clock in the morning! One time we were swimming and my Uncle Jim Vittrekwa came down. I remember he stripped down to his long johns, did a swan dive into the pond and then dog paddled the rest of the way across. Looking down at him from the top of the bank were all my aunties and uncles, killing themselves laughing.

On calm days, one of our uncles would tell us to jump into one of the boats and we would look for fresh spruce branches for the tents and drift wood for the smoke houses. At other times, we would set thin copper snares for rabbits or go picking berries. As I grew older, my uncles taught me and the other boys how to hunt and how to skin and cut up moose or caribou. They'd also show us how to pluck ducks or geese and then cut up the meat and roast it by the fire. These are all things I took for granted then but I realize now how useful these skills have been in my life.

Looking back, I remember the delicious smells in the fish camp, the fish guts cooking in the fire or a whole white fish roasting by the fire. My grandmother used to always cook donuts and bannock in a frying pan in the fire. Sometimes after a successful hunt, all the people from the other side of the river would come across and we would all have our own little feast. All the smiling faces. It gave me a feeling I will never forget ... a feeling of such closeness.



Chief William Koe

Teetl'it Gwich'in Council

Greetings from Fort McPherson. We had quite a year with the election of a new council and a number of people changing positions within the Gwich'in organization. This update will provide you with a brief insight into the activities of the Teetl'it Gwich'in Council during 1995-'96.

The Council attended various meetings over the past year. Topics ranged from environmental issues to self-government discussions. We try to ensure that every council member has a chance to attend these meetings and keep Council informed.

♦ Community Assemblies

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Council held Community Assemblies over the year. The Community Assemblies were held to inform the Teetl'it Gwich'in of activities, to receive direction and hear concerns. The meetings gave us a clear picture of what is on the minds of our people.

♦ Community Projects

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Council worked on a number of projects over the past year. One of the biggest projects was the making of a fire break line around our community. This project created over thirty jobs for two months and we now have a break line to protect the community from fires. Through the Community Action Fund

and Building Healthy Communities Programs, other jobs and opportunities were created, including:

- ♦ *Elders to Rock River;*
- ♦ *Youth Project;*
- ♦ *Hockey Clinic; and,*
- ♦ *Suicide Prevention Training.*

In January, 1996 the Government Economic Development Officer was transferred to Fort McPherson to better serve the community. We are working on transferring other government positions that will benefit the people of Fort McPherson.

♦ Chief Julius School

The beginning of 1996 saw the loss of Chief Julius School to fire. We are currently building a new school that should be completed by March, 1997 and will be even better than the old school. This project produced excellent working relationships with various organizations in the community and region.

♦ Liquor Plebiscite

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Council, along with the Hamlet of Fort McPherson and other interested organizations, will hold a Liquor Plebiscite. The public will be asked how they would like to see alcohol controlled in Fort McPherson.

♦ Conclusion

The year saw many respected Elders pass on. They leave with us the gift of respect and knowledge to give to our children.

I would like to thank the Gwich'in of Fort McPherson and surrounding communities for the opportunity to work in the capacity as Chief of the Teetl'it Gwich'in people. It is a learning experience for me and an exciting time for our people, especially with the changes that are happening within government. This change sheds new light on our approach to self-government for the Gwich'in Nation. It is an exciting challenge and with the community's support and cooperation, things will run smoothly for myself, my colleagues and our organization. Mussi Cho.

William Koe
Chief, Teetl'it Gwich'in Council

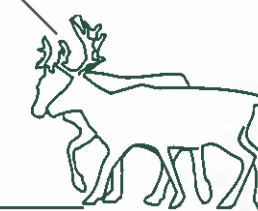
Teetl'it Gwich'in Council Members

Chief William Koe
Sub-Chief Abe Wilson

Councillors

Robert Alexie Sr.
Charlie Snowshoe
Woody Elias
Walter Firth
Johnny Charlie Sr.
Roberta Peterson

Teetl'it Gwich'in
means people along the Peel River



Chief James Firth/Barry Greenland, Sub-Chief Nihtat Gwich'in Council

The Nihtat Gwich'in Council accomplished another productive and eventful year. Significant events included the council elections in February, the Special Assembly in February hosted by the Nihtat Gwich'in Council and the building of Rachel Reindeer's Cultural Camp.

Elections

The council elections in February for the Inuvik Native Band, Métis Local 62, Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization (DGO) were hotly contested and resulted in a high number of voters. Elections were held on Thursday, February 29 and the results were posted that evening. The election process proved to be challenging with both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries voting for various organizations. Thank you to all who ran for council and congratulations to those elected.

Housing

A lot of beneficiaries living in Inuvik were unable to take advantage of free housing in the 1980s and 90s because of the high cost of land — and the fact Inuvik never received treaty lands. Through our land claim we were able to obtain residential lots and four blocks of hinterlands on Navy Road. We are working with the town of Inuvik and NWT Housing to develop new by-laws to allow our people to build permanent housing on the hinterlands.

Special Assembly

Inuvik hosted the Gwich'in Tribal Council Special Assembly in February. Community acceptance was a priority for the Nihtat Council and we urged the Assembly to support us. Community acceptance is important because some people have lived their entire lives on this land with us. We can't abandon these people who are part of our family, our history and have no where else to go. The assembly voted for community acceptance of Aboriginal people who were resident in the Gwich'in Settlement Area before 1983 and who are not part of another land claim.

Rachel Reindeer's Cultural Camp

This camp was originally set up by Johnny and Rachel Reindeer in the 1970s. They used it for fishing, berry picking and to enjoy the land. The camp is situated eight miles up river from Inuvik on the east branch of the Mackenzie River. In the summer of 1995, volunteers worked long hours to complete the camp so that our people who want to get out with their families to set nets or pick berries can use it (no alcohol). The Nihtat Gwich'in Council invites you to visit Rachel's Camp and be a part of this special place.

Employment Training

The Nihtat Gwich'in Council accessed training funds to help employ and train people in finance and as ferry/truck drivers. Funds were granted through the Government and the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Communication

The Nihtat Gwich'in Council responded to your concern about the importance of having information taken back to the communities. We accomplished this by producing newsletters, hosting meetings and open houses and holding assemblies every three months to keep people up-to-date. The Nihtat Council encourages you to participate in community affairs. Your involvement is vital to a healthy community and your ideas and creativity fuel our efforts to ensure that all Gwich'in beneficiaries enjoy happy, productive lives. Drop by our offices in the Alex-Moses Greenland Building or call us at 979-3344 with any concerns you may have.

The band councilors visited all Gwich'in Communities to continue discussing issues important to us as a Nation, such as community development, treaty rights, land claim issues and self-government.

The Road Ahead

A busy year is in store in order to accomplish the goals we have set for ourselves. The priorities of the Nihtat Council include:

- ♦ Initiating business ventures and employing people.
- ♦ Negotiating self-government with the Federal and Territorial Governments and the Inuvialuit. The team assembled to tackle the self-government issue is highly capable and has laid the foundation for effective negotiations.
- ♦ Reviewing our land claim and planning renegotiations to ensure the claim is in the best interest of our beneficiaries. After four years, we are at an opportune time to know what has and has not worked, and what will work for us in the future.

In closing, it is with sadness and deepest respect that we pay tribute to all our Elders who passed away this year. We remember their love, kindness and generosity in life and their joy and beauty in their children who are here today.

Mussi Cho and thank you,
James Firth, Chief
and Barry Greenland, Sub-Chief



Fish drying outside smokehouse at Rachel Reindeer's Camp.

Inuvik Native Band

Chief James Firth
Sub-Chief Barry Greenland
Councilors Robert Charlie
Elizabeth Hansen
Cheryl Greenland
William Francis
Victor Stewart

Métis Local #62

President Bridgette Larocque
Vice-President Neil Firth
Directors Janet Weidemann
Eliza Firth
Pat Bourque
Angeline Campbell
Steve Lafferty

Nihtat Gwich'in Council Directors

James Firth
Barry Greenland
Robert Charlie
Elizabeth Hansen
Neil Firth
Roger Allen
Pat Bourque

Renewable Resources Council

Coordinator Neil Firth
President Tommy Wright
Directors Pat Bourque
James Firth
Roger Allen
Wilbert Firth
Freddy Jerome
Robert Charlie



Designated Gwich'in Organizations (DGOs) are councils in each community which oversee implementation of the land claim.



nihtat means mixed cultures.



Brian Kelly

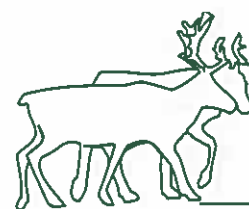
Gwich'ya Gwich'in Council

It seems like just yesterday we sat down to write our last annual report. The days must pass very quickly, or is the report required sooner than before? Anyway, the bad news first. Our community was silenced on March 11, as fire totally destroyed our radio and tv system as well as the old store and other Band supplies and equipment. The radio and tv were revived six weeks later. It was rumoured that during this period of silence our local DJ, Jimsey Cardinal, could be heard singing "Oh, Lonesome Me" from the radio room. The radio is now back in action, providing the community with much needed information and George Jones music. The loss was covered by insurance and the community is looking at installing cable tv.

Community Projects

Renovations to the old community hall are now complete. The old hall was renamed the Chief Hyacinthe Andre Cultural Centre. The community is very proud that the work was completely done by local people. The Centre will be the home of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, as well as a sewing and craft making area. The facility also houses a sales and information office and other office space. Stop in for a visit.

The community fire break was completed in the fall. The fire break surrounds the community and offers added protection against forest fires. Our crew did an excellent job clearing the break. The forest fire management crew will return this summer.



Community Wellness

The community undertook many community wellness projects throughout the year. The Wellness Committee initiated a detailed survey of local residents in order to obtain their ideas. The results of the survey were used to develop programs people wanted. Some of the programs included Elders and youth radio programs and placing a student advisor in the school. The programs are ongoing and additional programs such as an Elders Camp and a Gwich'in Literacy Workshop are planned.

New Businesses

The entrepreneurial spirit came to the community with the following four new businesses being established:

- ◆ *Pete's Café expanded to the café at the store;*
- ◆ *Agnes Mitchell's Taxi operation (AM Taxi);*
- ◆ *Russell Andre's Mackenzie River Tours; and,*
- ◆ *Carolyn Blake and Sammy Lennie's new tire business operating as L and B Tire Sales and Repairs.*

We encourage everyone to use these Gwich'in-owned operations.

Community Meetings and Events

The Canadian Rangers came to town during the year. The Rangers are part of the Canadian Military Reserves and they participate in search and rescue and first-aid training. Their fall and winter visits enabled 22 dedi-

cated men and women to participate in the Ranger program. The Ranger's winter travel included a trip up the Arctic Red River to Martin House. The number of women equalled the number of men and it was suggested that a good square dance could have been held. Despite very cold temperatures the trip and the activities went very well.

The recreation committee was also very busy during the past year. The committee organized many events including Tsiigehtchic Canoe Days and the Mackenzie Jamboree. Many visitors from neighbouring communities attended these events and a good time was had by all.

We will have a very late breakup this year. As of May 16, we were still crossing the rivers with skidoos. A film crew recorded a documentary on the breakup of the Arctic Red River. This film will appear on the Discovery Channel next fall.

The population of the community seems to be growing, as indicated by the number of children enrolled in school. At last count we had approximately 50 children enrolled in our school. Our local CEC and teachers Don and Maria have things well-in-hand at our over crowded two building school (hint for our MLA and politicians).

The Elders Council held regular monthly meetings to discuss matters that concerned them. Some of the topics discussed were cutting of the old-time trails and setting-up of camps near the community (Chii t sal) for their use. The Elders also discussed the need for a regional Elders meeting to be held during the summer at the Gwich'in Assembly or the Gwich'in Gathering. The Elders expressed their appreciation to the Band and individu-



Tsiigehtchic children at community cookout. L-R: Bobby Jean Natsie, Shelly Natsie, Joey Benoit, Sarah Natsie, Sasha Blake, Candice Mitchell (standing) and Bryan Mitchell. ◆ Inset photo-Barney Natsie and George Niditchie Jr. in Tsiigehtchic.

als that helped them during the year, including Irene and Terry for cleaning; Russell and Barney for ice and everyone else that helped them during the year - Mahsi.

The community is busy "spring cleaning" and getting ready for a busy summer. If you are passing by Tsiigehtchic, stop in for tea.

Tsiigehtchic Charter Community Councilors

Chief Grace Blake
Alestine Andre
Peter Ross
James Cardinal
Joe Gervais
Peter Clark
Noel Andre

Mavis Clark
Rose Clark
Maureen Clark
Linda Andre
Peter Clark
Sheila Clark

Elaine Blake - Coordinator
Sheila Cardinal
Nap Norbert
JulieAnne Andre
Noel Andre
Mickey Andre

Gwich'ya Gwich'in Band Councilors

Chief Grace Blake
Alestine Andre
Peter Ross
James Cardinal
Noel Andre
Beverley Moore
JulieAnne Andre
John Guy Norbert

Renewable Resources Council

James Gardlund - Coordinator
Beverley Moore
Noel Andre
John Norbert
Anna May McLeod
James Cardinal
George Niditchie Sr.
Peter Ross

Community Education Council

Recreation Committee

Gwich'ya Gwich'in
means people of flat ground



Ingrid Kritsch/Alestine Andre Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

The main objective of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute is to conduct social and cultural research and to provide programming in these areas for the benefit of Gwich'in beneficiaries.

The Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute is currently into its third year of operation. Our head office is located in Tsiigehtchic and we maintain a small research office in Yellowknife. We will move our operations to the old community hall in Tsiigehtchic as soon as the renovations are complete. At present we have a permanent staff of two: an executive director and a cultural director. Over the next few months we will seek funding for an administrative assistant to assist with our increasing workload. Over the past year, we conducted thirteen projects and contracts.

Place Name Projects

Traditional Gwich'in place names are left off most official maps, but these names are very important to us. Our place names tell us much about how our ancestors lived, where they travelled, and their in-depth knowledge of the land. Since 1992, over 300 Gwich'in and English place names have been recorded for trails, areas and geographic features in the Gwichya Gwich'in region.

In 1995, we began a major place names project with Fort McPherson Elders about the traditional land use area of the Teetl'it Gwich'in. Using information gathered in the 1970s and

1980s by John Ritter, Wm. Nerysoo Sr., John A. Charlie and Neil Colin, we catalogued and put into a computer database (information, usually about one particular subject that has been collected and entered on the computer for easy access) more than 350 place names. We were asked by Elders to continue this project by adding more place names and recording the oral history (history that is passed on by word of mouth) of each of these places. They asked us to do this soon because of their age. We were asked to include young people in on-the-land projects so that they will benefit from the knowledge of their Elders.

Tsiigehnjik Ethnoarchaeology Project

In 1995, ten days of archaeological surveying (searching for evidence of human cultures) was done along the Tsiigehnjik (Arctic Red River). The survey strategy is based on oral history information provided the previous winter by Gwichya Gwich'in Elders living in Tsiigehtchic.

The survey team visited traditional sites identified by the Elders, mainly on the stretch of river between Bernard Creek and the Forks. Several important sites were recorded, including a dog-pack trail used by Gwichya Gwich'in to travel between the river and the Mackenzie Mountains to reach their traditional winter hunting grounds.

The 1996 program is designed to complete excavations at Martin House. Following completion of the fieldwork,



Mabel English talking about traditional plant uses at Gwich'in Territorial Park

we will publish a small booklet on the ethnoarchaeological (the study of a human culture in relation to historical remains) work carried out to date.

Martin Zheh Field School

In the summer of 1995, a two-week archaeological and cultural field school at Martin Zheh (on the Arctic



Annie Norbert also demonstrates her traditional knowledge at Gwich'in Territorial Park

Red River) introduced high school students to the basics of archaeological survey and excavation procedures, bush skills and traditional environmental knowledge (knowledge of the environment acquired through Elders or through one's own experiences). Institute staff, Elders and archaeologists collaborated on the project. Students learned about their own heritage and realized they are a vital link in preserv-

ing that history for future generations. The activities of the field school were recorded on videotape by the Media Resource Centre with the intention of producing a video for use in schools.

History of the Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic

Working with the Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board of Education, we completed a draft written history of the Gwichya Gwich'in and the community of Tsiigehtchic. This history is based on information and stories provided by Gwichya Gwich'in Elders during oral history projects carried out from 1992-'95. This year we will finalize the draft so it can be used in the local schools by teachers and students. The Tsiigehtchic Community Education Council, the Gwich'in Language Centre in Fort McPherson and the Media Resource Centre are assisting with this project as well.

Genealogical Research

In partnership with the Gwich'in Enrolment Board, we carried out genealogical research (the record of a person's family history) for the community of Tsiigehtchic. Similar work is being done for the communities of Fort McPherson, Aklavik and Inuvik. We intend to record the oral history associated with individuals and families, including stories related to the naming of individuals.

Cultural Camps

Two cultural camps were held in the winter for grade five students. They learned about Gwich'in culture, bush and survival skills and the work required to maintain a winter camp from an Elder and two experienced bush instructors. This camp has been very popular with young students so we have decided to develop a program to encourage parents to take their own children out 'on the land'. Parents will have the chance to play a larger role in their children's education.

Strategic Planning

The Government of the Northwest Territories provided funding to the Institute to assist us in preparing a five-year plan, and to identify potential long-term funding. Using the funding, we wrote a document called, "Into the Next Millennium: the Five-Year Plan of the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute 1996-2001." This document informs people about the Institute and is used as a fund-raising tool.

Gwich'in Themes Contract

Under contract to Parks Canada, we compiled a detailed list of 545 sources about the Gwich'in which will be relevant in interpretive programs for tourism. This work is the beginning of a long-term program which will help visitors to the area understand Gwich'in culture, while protecting heritage resource sites and promoting Gwich'in traditional knowledge of the land.



Ethnoarchaeology in the Gwich'in Settlement Area pieces together our cultural history by searching for objects used in our past.



Traditional environmental knowledge (TEK) is information passed to people and communities through their ancestors' experiences.



Ingrid Kritsch/Alestine Andre

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

♦ Peel River Watershed Contract

The Peel River Watershed Advisory Committee awarded a contract to Gwich'in Geographics Ltd. in 1995 to co-ordinate the compilation of baseline environmental information on the watershed. (Baseline environmental information is the standard we use to detect environmental changes. A deviation from the baseline alerts us to changes.) The Institute was one of several partners in this venture and was responsible for preparing a detailed list of anthropological and ethnohistorical literature relevant to the Peel River Watershed. The list has nearly 600 published and unpublished items on various subjects.

♦ Northern Athapaskan & Métis Collections Contract

In 1993, under contract to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Institute designed a survey to acquire information on Northwest Territories Athapaskan and Métis historical objects and records. The survey was sent to 169 heritage institutions around the world and in 1995-'96 we compiled the responses to the survey and produced a report to assist government, Athapaskan and Métis organizations in getting these important collections returned.



Smoking caribou meat at Martin Zheb Field School, 1995.

Photo: Eric Damkjar

♦ Gwich'in Territorial Park Contract

During 1995, the GSCI staff participated in both archaeological and oral history studies of the territorial park area. The information from these studies could be used in developing interpretive materials for the park. Two sites are likely precontact Gwich'in sites and it has been recommended that park development proceed with minor modifications in order to avoid disturbing these two sites.

The traditional plant study was carried out with Elders from Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic in 1995. This project provided information about the traditional use of plants, trees, roots and berries that are encountered on one of the hiking trails being developed in the Park.

♦ Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project

The Institute is taking an advisory role in this project, which was initiated by the Gwich'in Renewable Re-

source Board. This project is documenting Gwich'in knowledge about a selected number of fish and wildlife species in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, their uses, spiritual values and ethical principles associated with their use and conservation.

♦ Delta Science Camp

This summer, ten high school students from Inuvik, Aklavik and Fort McPherson will spend nine days at a science camp. They will gain first-hand experience in both the traditional and western scientific traditions through work with Gwich'in Elders, a biologist, geographer, and archaeologists. This year's camp will be located at the site of a traditional Teetl'it Gwich'in fish camp called the Mouth of the Peel.

♦ Conclusion

Our Elders are crucial to our research and programming because they are the sources of traditional knowledge and can give guidance in terms of cultural matters and values. We encourage our Elders and our youth to work together, so that communication and respect are fostered and maintained. In this way we hope that our traditions, cultural values, and the social well-being of our people will be carried into the next millennium.

♦ Funding

An annual stipend from the Gwich'in Tribal Council covers approximately 30% of our administrative expenses. The other 70% is raised through grants, contracts and donations to cover administration, research and programs.

This year, funding was provided by the following agencies: Parks Canada, GNWT Dept. of Education, Culture and Employment, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Gwichya Gwich'in Council, Tsiigehtchic Community Education Council, Hamlet of Fort McPherson, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, GNWT Dept. of Economic Development and Tourism, Beaufort/Delta Divisional Board of Education, Science Institute of the nwr, Gwich'in Enrolment Board, & Gwich'in Geographics Ltd.

Status

Non-profit society under the Gwich'in Tribal Council with charitable status.

Mandate

To document, preserve and promote the practice of Gwich'in culture, language, traditional knowledge and values.



Martin Zheb Field School excavation. Front-back: Jenny Andre, Eric Damkjar, Yvonne Andre, Alestine Andre, Rita Carpenter, Erika Kritsch, Ingrid Kritsch.

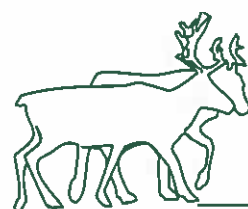
Photo: Tom Andrews

Board of Directors

Chief Grace Blake	Chair	Gabe Andre	Tsiigehtchic
Mary Kendi	Aklavik	Bertha Francis	Fort McPherson
Catherine Mitchell	Inuvik	Sarah McLeod-Firth	Inuvik
Johnny Charlie	Fort McPherson	The Board meets four times annually.	

Staff Members

Ingrid Kritsch — Executive Director
(Research Office - Yellowknife)
Alestine Andre — Cultural Director
(Head Office - Tsiigehtchic)



Gwich'in heritage resources give a record of Gwich'in use and have spiritual, cultural, religious and educational importance.



Robert A. Alexie

TI'oondih Healing Society

The TI'oondih Healing Society was established in 1994 by the Gwich'in Tribal Council to develop, implement and administer a family healing program at TI'oondih Healing Camp. The TI'oondih Healing Society is a registered charitable organization with its office located in the Chief John Tetlich Building in Fort McPherson. This office processes and assesses potential clients.

TI'oondih Healing Camp is located 28 kilometres south of Fort McPherson on the east shore of the Peel River in the foothills of the Richardson Mountains. The camp consists of a main lodge, nine client cabins and two staff cabins, constructed with locally harvested logs by Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd. There is a fully functional kitchen/dining facility and a generator shed. A solar electrical system runs the camp except during the morning and the late afternoon.

The Healing Camp was established by the Gwich'in to begin the healing process in our communities. The program is based on holistic, traditional and modern therapeutic healing methods. TI'oondih is a family facility with different programs for adults, youth and children.



The first program began in April, 1995 and there have been six full programs since June of 1995, with an average of 28 clients per program. Each program is 35 days long and to date, 190 clients have attended the program.

♦ Employment/Funding

The Healing Society employs 22 people as therapists, cooks, camp maintainers, youth counselors, adult counselors and administrators. Over the past year we were funded by the Department of Health and Social Services and we continue to seek other sources of funding from government and the private sector. In addition, we are open to renting the camp to interested parties and we will look at other areas where we can raise money such as selling T-shirts, etc.

♦ Admission Procedure

TI'oondih is open to everyone, and as of May, 1996 an estimated 250 clients are on our waiting list. The following is the admission procedure for the TI'oondih Healing Camp.



- ♦ Contact our office in Fort McPherson at (403) 952-2025 or 2644 with your name, address, date of birth, etc.;
- ♦ Our friendly staff will assist you in filling out assessment forms; and,
- ♦ Complete and submit the funding forms to your Alcohol and Drug Specialist.

We are in the process of developing an After Care Program, as 80% of the healing process takes place after you complete the program.

♦ Summary

Healing is a journey — not a destination. The TI'oondih Healing Camp is a safe place along your journey where you have the opportunity to learn how to help yourself and the people you care about. Success in this program depends on you. TI'oondih will give you a chance to reflect on the choices you have and will make in life. We all have choices and we have to accept responsibility for them. When it comes right down to it, we are doing this for ourselves and for our children because we want them to have the best and to lead a better life than we have.

The road to success is long, challenging and paved with many obstacles and negativity. Knowing that the TI'oondih Healing Society makes a difference keeps us going. We thank the Gwich'in for supporting this program and for their continued enthusiasm in the healing camp.



Bella Kay's class went to James and Lena Olin's camp to set muskrat traps, pick spruce gum and cook bannock.

TI'oondih Team

Doug Smith
Darlene Koe
Rebecca Francis
Ellen K. Francis
Michelle Buczek
Donny Robert
Helen Wilson
Alice Vittrekwa

Lucy Vittrekwa
Olive Itsi
Ernest Vittrekwa
Brian Francis
Kenny Koe
Lloyd MacDonald
Michael Hartmann
Jennifer Chalmers

Board of Directors

Robert A. Alexie (Chairperson),
Alestine Andre (Vice-Chair),
Mary Teya (Director),
Barry Greenland (Director),
Mary Storr (Director)
and Gladys Alexie (Director).

Thank you...

to Louisa Kay who assisted Jennifer for a few months during the winter.

Thank you...

to all the other people who worked and helped us up at the camp.

Holistic healing is a healing approach that looks at a whole person and their experiences, not just one aspect.



Sarah Jerome

Education and Training

This past year was exciting in the area of Education and Training for Gwich'in students in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Attendance by students at post-secondary institutions is increasing and we have more students returning to school to pursue careers that pertain to the Gwich'in Land Claim.

♦ Post-secondary Education

The number of students attending Aurora College has increased, with twenty five graduating from programs such as Teacher Education, Office Administration, Renewable Resources, Fine Arts Certificate/Fur Garment Specialization, Community Health Representative, Community Administration Certificate and Aboriginal Language Teacher Programs. Students who attend southern institutions are taking courses in Social Work, Management Studies, Teacher Education, Business Administration, Engineering, Dentistry and Civil Engineering. We are happy to report we have a student graduating from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and will be the first Gwich'in dentist in the area. Doreen Tartiff will graduate after seven years of schooling. Congratulations Dr. Tartiff!



Sarah Jerome, Education and Training Coordinator, at Careers Day in Inuvik, 1996.

♦ Training and Apprenticeships

On-going training and apprenticeship programs for individuals are offered through Tetlit Zheh Trucking and Construction. More students are enquiring about courses offered through Arctic College and construction apprenticeships, as well as class 1 driver's and heavy equipment training.

The Gwich'in Scholarship Fund is available to Gwich'in students enrolled in the Gwich'in Claim and who have lived in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The Gwich'in Scholarship Committee meets twice a year to review scholarship applications and disperse funds. This funding is available along with assistance offered through the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The Education and Training Department is pursuing monies for youth groups, Aboriginal Language Enhancement, and various community activities. Proposals are being written for our students to travel to various institutions to broaden their perspective on the world and the jobs available to them. We anticipate that these experiences will help them in their pursuit of happiness.

Gwich'in Scholarship Committee

Gladys Alexie	Fort McPherson
Elizabeth Crawford-Hansen	Inuvik
Mavis Clark	Tsiigehtchic
Melba Mitchell	Aklavik

Bart Kreps

Gwich'in Land Administration (GLA)

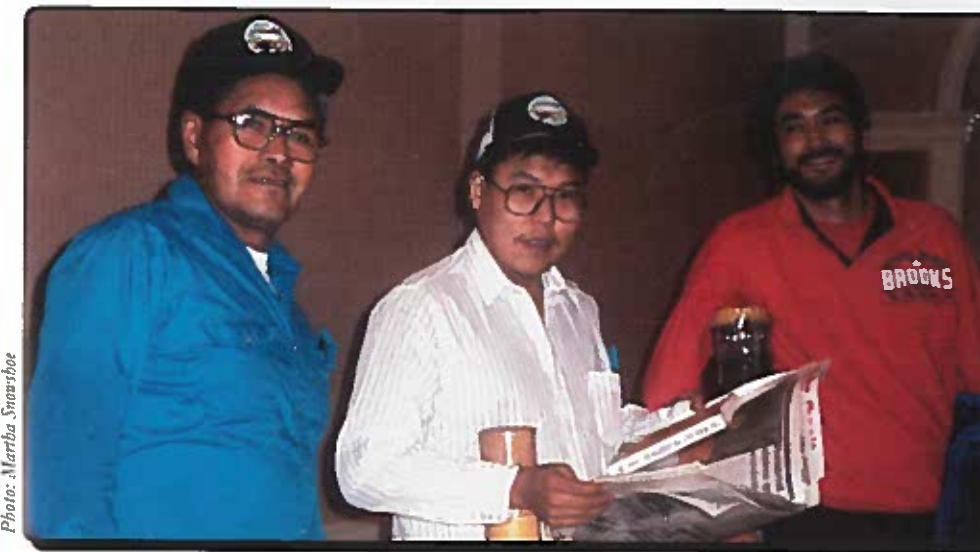


Photo: Marsha Snowbird

Above: Johnny D. Charlie, James Ross and Wilbert Firth at signing of the Yukon Overlap Agreement in Vancouver, 1990. ♦ Right: Surveying Richardson Mountains near Aklavik.

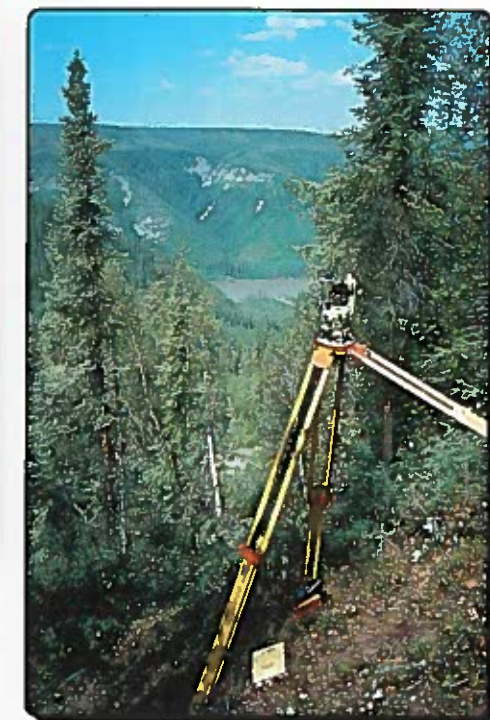


Photo: courtesy of Stewart and Weir

The Gwich'in Land Administration (GLA) manages 9,000 square miles of land owned by the Gwich'in Tribal Council as a result of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Our land must be protected so Gwich'in culture will thrive for generations in the future. Traditional harvesters know the land well, so the Gwich'in Land Administration consults first with Gwich'in Renewable Resources Councils (RRCS) whenever applications arrive for new activities on Gwich'in lands.

Members of the RRCS play a key role in determining which applications will be approved. RRCS set conditions before granting licenses to ensure the land stays healthy.

♦ Economic Resources

Gravel resources on Gwich'in land are important to many construction projects in the region. Gravel royalties are the major funding source for the GLA and the GLA is actively involved in assessing the environmental suitability of new potential gravel sites.

GLA authorizes permits for anyone who intends to cut or remove trees on Gwich'in land. Timber is significant for firewood, pilings for new buildings and lumber.

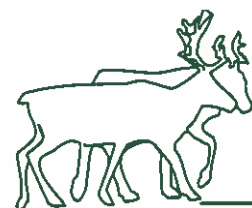
The GLA frequently screens proposed new tourism ventures. In assessing any proposal, the goal is to ensure new developments occur in harmony with traditional pursuits such as hunting and fishing.

♦ Land Parcel Boundaries

Since the signing of the Land Claim, a major focus of the GLA is the legal description of the land parcels. Almost all surveys of land parcel boundaries are complete and approved by the GLA and the government of Canada. In the coming year, we will integrate these land parcel classifications into new printed maps and computer databases.

♦ New Location

In the fall of 1995, GLA moved its office to the Chief Andrew Stewart Building in Aklavik. This building is being renovated and doubled in size, giving GLA adequate office space.



Robert A. Alexie

Gwich'in Development Corporation

The Gwich'in Development Corporation is the economic arm of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and has two objectives:

- 1) To invest in viable businesses in the region and elsewhere; and,
- 2) To provide employment, training and business opportunities for Gwich'in.

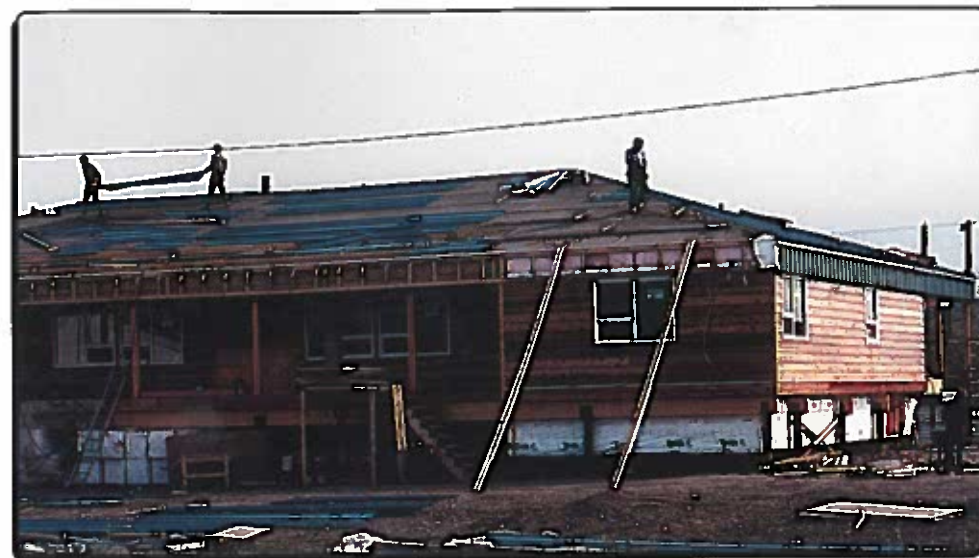
The Gwich'in Development Corporation owns the following businesses:

Gwich'in Geographics Ltd.	100%
Larga Ltd.	37.5%
Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd.	100%
Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd.	100%
Gwich'in Properties Ltd.	100%
Klondike River Lodge.	50%

♦ Gwich'in Geographics Ltd. Inuvik, NT

Gwich'in Geographics Ltd. (GGL) manages and communicates information about the land for Gwich'in organizations, government agencies and commercial clients.

Gwich'in Geographics uses computer-aided mapping techniques to work with satellite imagery, air photos, Gwich'in oral history and other sources of geographic information. GGL's publishing division produces books, posters and many other printed materials.



Charlotte Vebus Zheh being built by Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd.

The company's computer consulting activities include database design and the implementation of computer networks for information sharing.

Leonard DeBastien works as a cartographer and assistant manager; Ron English is a computer operator and artist.

♦ Larga Ltd. Edmonton, AB

Larga Ltd. is owned by the Gwich'in Development Corporation (Nunasi Ltd.) and Bill Davidson. Larga provides residential and transportation services to medical patients who must go to Edmonton for treatment.

Larga Ltd. is one of our most successful businesses.

♦ Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd. Fort McPherson, NT

Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd. is one of the major employers in the region and employed 101 people last year. We have people such as Richard James Blake, Clifford Vaneltsi, Paul A. J. Koe, Kenny Koe, Willie Clark and Perry Villebrun Jr. who have made Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd. what it is today by contributing their talents to the success of the company.

Dean Smith is the general manager, Peter James Vittrekwa is the foreman and Anita Vittrekwa is the assistant manager. Wayne Eluick and Brian McNeely are the heavy equipment mechanics and Ricky Niditchi and Charlie Blake are the apprentice mechanics.



Richard Nerysoo and Brian Mitchell representing the Gwich'in Nation at the National Aboriginal Tourism Conference in Calgary, 1995.

♦ Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd. Fort McPherson/Inuvik

Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd. had a good year as usual. They wrapped up construction of the Visitor Information Centre and the Charlotte Vebus Zheh (an adult group home) with flying colours. In addition, the Chief Jim Koe Zheh was finished on time and under budget. Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd. (TZCL) also completed some access and alternative housing in the communities and looks forward to doing more this year.

Currently, TZCL is constructing the Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson. The school classrooms will be completed early in the new year and the school will be fully completed and ready for use for the 1997-'98 school year.

Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd. employed 149 people last year and will likely exceed this by the summer of 1996. Nick Roder is operations manager. Don Grettum is the main man overseeing construction of the Chief Julius School, Keith Kratchmer is the

accountant and Steve Hagen is the administrative officer. Pamela Horesay is the bookkeeper/secretary/receptionist.

♦ Gwich'in Properties Ltd. Fort McPherson, NT

Gwich'in Properties Ltd. is a holding company for Gwich'in real estate such as our houses in the communities, the Charles Koe Building, the Chief Jim Koe Zheh Building, the construction camp and the Ti'oondih Healing Camp. Last year we built six houses in Yellowknife, which all sold despite a dramatic decrease in the housing market in Yellowknife and right across the country.

♦ Klondike River Lodge, Mile 0, Dempster Highway

Klondike River Lodge is located at Mile 0 on the Dempster Highway and was purchased by the Gwich'in a few years ago and renovated to the point where we are proud of the facility. Thanks to Stan Jones and Anne

Firth-Jones for their work.

In May, 1995 the Gwich'in Development Corporation sold an interest in the lodge to Totem Oil and we have since entered into a management agreement with Totem.

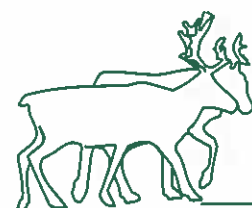
With sales exceeding \$1 million and with the advent of the anniversary of the discovery of gold, we can only expect good things from this venture.

♦ Other Businesses

The Gwich'in Development Corporation and Arctic Tire Ltd. have established a numbered company whose primary focus is the drilling and piling business. This year the company did the pile work for the school in Fort McPherson and some other smaller jobs in the region.

Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd. (TZTL) and Robinson Trucking Ltd. (RTL) of Yellowknife have established another numbered company to haul freight from the south to points north.

RTL hauls the loads to Whitehorse or Dawson and TZTL brings them home.



Ron Cruikshank

Interim Land Use Planning Board

The Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board was created December 22, 1992. The Board is responsible for land use planning in the Gwich'in Settlement Area until the permanent Land Use Planning Board is established. The permanent board will come into effect when the House of Commons passes the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA).

Achievements

The most significant achievement this year was the development of a strategic plan for creating the Gwich'in Settlement Area Land Use Plan. At first, the Board thought updating the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea Land Use Plan would be sufficient. However, significant changes in land management and land use in this region have occurred, requiring production of an entirely new plan. The Board presented its strategy to the Implementation Committee and requested more funding for a new land use plan. This money was granted and will be used for:

- ◆ Increased community consultation;
- ◆ Staffing; and,
- ◆ Regional land use planning workshops.

Strategic planning — a careful, well thought out method for achieving our goals.



Ernest Vittrekwa, Camp maintainer for the Tl'oondih Healing Camp.

Photo: Robert A. Alcantar

The Planning Process

The land use planning process involves three stages:

- ◆ Collecting and analyzing information;
- ◆ Planning options; and,
- ◆ Producing draft and final plans.

Information Collection and Analysis

Collecting and analyzing information will give the Board maps and reports that summarize what and where resources are in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) and how they are or could be used. Reviewing the Gwich'in Final Agreement and existing legislation will tell us what restrictions are already in place regarding land use in the GSA. Studying neighbouring land claim agreements and land use plans will give continuity to the entire Mackenzie Delta/Valley region.

Plan Options

Developing plan options presents different ways land use may be managed in the GSA. Classifying land is part of planning options because it sets out how the land will be used to prevent disagreement between different land users (eg. hunting, trapping, forestry etc.). The Board will produce a report with various options for classifying land uses. Once the "Plan Options Report" is released, a regional land use planning workshop will be held. The workshop will bring together land users to review the options in the report and make recommendations to the Board.

Land Use Plan

The Draft Land Use Plan will summarize decisions the planning board and land users make with respect to ideas and comments that come from reviewing the plan options. Meetings



Oops! Beached at Tl'oondih.

Photo: Robert A. Alcantar

and presentations will follow the release of the Draft Plan.

A draft Final Land Use Plan will represent decisions made with respect to comments on the draft plan by land users and the Board. A draft Final Plan will be submitted for approval to the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal Department of Indian and Northern Development. When the final plan is approved, agencies will be identified and given tasks to implement the final plan.

Work to Date

The Board completed eight maps for the GSA maps series and five land use reports. The Board began considering the land classification system it will be applying to the settlement area. The Board held meetings in all Gwich'in communities and identified planning sub-regions based on traditional use areas. The Board intends to

set-up offices in the communities and continue to work through the process by applying its land classification system to the entire Gwich'in Settlement Area.

The Board was represented at the Peel River Watershed Advisory Committee meeting in Mayo in March, 1996 and official recommendations from this committee should be public soon. In April, the Board took the lead in organizing the first meeting of all Gwich'in Boards and Councils involved in land and water management.

For more information about the activities of the Interim Land Use Planning Board, drop by the planning office in the Chief Jim Koe Building in Inuvik.

Staff
Land Use Planner
Ron Cruikshank

Land Use Planner Trainee
Wilbert Firth

Board Members
(as of March 31, 1996)

Chair
Piet van Loon

Gwich'in Representatives
Charlie Snowshoe (Vice-Chair)
Bob Simpson

DIAND Representative
Karen LeGresley (Yellowknife)

GNWT Representative
The GNWT has failed to replace Robin Aitken since August 1995, impeding progress of the Interim Land Use Planning Board.

Land classification is grouping land into categories based on similarities or differences (such as traditional land uses).



Peter Clarkson

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (GRRB) became fully operational in 1995-'96. Office set-up and staff hiring is complete and several renewable resource projects began. This year the Board met four times — once in each community in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA).

Research and Management Projects

Research and management of renewable resources in the GSA is a focus the Board addressed in 1995-'96. Staff began work on a grizzly bear management plan and a forest management plan as these were priorities identified by Gwich'in beneficiaries. Concern about the Rat River Charr population resulted in research, harvest monitoring and development of the Rat River Charr Fishing Plan. The Board supported the protection of the Porcupine Caribou herd calving grounds.

Staff developed a Community Involvement Process and a Guide to Renewable Resource Management in the GSA. Staff also initiated plans for integrating management of all renewable resources such as forests, wildlife and fish in the GSA.

The Board initiated a project to determine the status of wildlife and fish in the GSA. Local knowledge, population estimates, habitat requirements and concerns about the animals are included in this report. The status report will help identify research and management needs.

Project Funding

The Board funded 14 research projects throughout the GSA at a cost of \$200,000. Research projects included:

- Seven fisheries projects;
- Bluenose Caribou census and satellite radio-collaring;
- Peregrine Falcon survey;
- Forestry airphoto survey; and,
- The Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project.

The Board invested the Wildlife Studies Fund so that the fund will produce annual revenue for research and management projects. The interest on the Fund will provide annual revenue of \$200,000/year from 1998 to 2006. In 2007, the Fund will be worth \$2,748,000.

Gwich'in Harvest Study

The Gwich'in Harvest Study began in September, 1995 to establish the Gwich'in Minimum Needs Level. The Gwich'in Minimum Needs Level is needed to ensure Gwich'in have access to fish, hunt and trap wildlife to meet their needs. The Harvest Study is coordinated from Inuvik, with field workers in each community conducting monthly interviews with hunters and trappers. Harvest Study information will be gathered for five years and is used by the Board and agencies responsible for renewable resource management. Ultimately, the Harvest Study will protect Gwich'in harvesting needs in the future.

Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project (GEKP)

The GEKP began in July 1995 to collect local knowledge about 20 fish and wildlife species in the GSA. Information on Gwich'in traditional knowledge is collected by interviewing Elders and other people in the communities and by participating in traditional activities on the land. GEKP staff reviewed previous interviews and archival material to find existing information on Gwich'in traditional knowledge. The project is funded by the Board, federal and territorial governments, private foundations and corporations.

Education and Training

The Board believes education and training of Gwich'in beneficiaries in the area of renewable resource research and management is crucial. The Board established the Jim Edwards Sittichinli Scholarship to assist students from the GSA. Jim Edwards Sittichinli was a well-respected Elder and minister who worked throughout his life for the people and land in the Delta area. Two scholarships of \$1,000 each are awarded every year to students who pursue a career in renewable resources or religious studies. The first two scholarships were awarded at the November, 1995 Board meeting to Ian McLeod and Joe Benoit. Congratulations to Ian and Joe, both second-year students in the Renewable Resource Technology Program at Aurora College.

The Board provides on-the-job training to Gwich'in beneficiaries through the following initiatives:

- The Gwich'in Harvest Study Assistant position was created to train a beneficiary in conducting a harvest study.
- The Board coordinated a co-funded fisheries technician trainee position to give on-the-job training in fisheries research and management. The position is co-funded by the Board, the Gwich'in Tribal Council Training Fund and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- A trainee position to assist the Board's Biologist and Policy/Management Analyst was approved and is to begin in June, 1996. This position is co-funded by the Board and the Gwich'in Tribal Council Training Fund.
- The Board hired four summer students in 1995 to provide them with work experience in renewable resource management and will hire summer students again in 1996.

Teamwork

Establishing a successful, long-term renewable resource management plan requires contacts and good working relationships with communities, government agencies, renewable resources councils and adjacent land claim organizations. Working together with these groups, the Board will effectively fulfil its role of renewable resource management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.



Drying Charr at Francis' camp on the Rat River in August, 1995.

Staff

Executive Director
Peter Clarkson
Executive Secretary
Trina Edwards
Policy/Management Analyst
Wynet Smith
Biologist
Cheryl Chetkiewicz
Harvest Study Coordinator
Ian McDonald
Harvest Study Assistants
Norman Snowshoe*
Shawn Firth
GEKP Coordinator
Gleb Raygorodetsky
GEKP Transcriber
Cheryl Wright
GEKP Researcher
Neal Simard
GEKP Assistant
Ida Stewart*
Research Assistant &
Assistant Management Planner
Jennifer Castleden*
Research Assistant
Jaida Edwards

Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project Community Interviewers

Fort McPherson
James Martin*
Steven Charlie
Tsiighechic
Russell Andre
Aldavik
Beatrice Stewart

* People that are not currently working for the GRRB as of March 31, 1996.

Board Members

Robert Charlie, Chairperson

Regular Members

Robert Alexie Sr.
Joe Benoit
Roger Binne
James Firth
Jim Hickling
Paul Latour

Alternate Members

Grace Blake
Freddie Greenland
Ed Henderson
Kevin McCormick
Roger Peet
James Ross

Harvest Study Community Interviewers

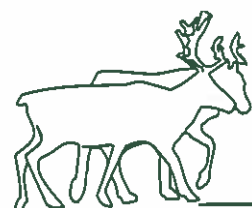
Tsiighechic
Noel Andre

Aldavik
Melba Mitchell
Eddie Greenland*

Fort McPherson

Ernest Bonnetplume*
Georgie Blake*
Clifford Francis
Johnny Firth

The harvest study gives information on gathering, hunting, trapping and fishing to protect Gwich'in needs today and in the future.



Sharon Snowshoe 1993~'96 Enrolment Board

The Gwich'in Enrolment Board, created in March, 1993 as part of the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, is responsible for enrolling all eligible participants in the claim. The enrolment period lasts for five years and we are into our fourth year of registering Gwich'in beneficiaries.

Sharon Snowshoe, Enrolment Coordinator, distributes and receives enrolment application forms, prepares Certificates of Enrolment and prepares Gwich'in identification status cards for enrolled beneficiaries. Applications for enrolment are reviewed and either accepted or rejected by the Enrolment Board. Applications made under section 4.2.2 (Community Acceptance) of the claim are referred to the Gwich'in Tribal Council for a decision as to whether the person should be accepted into our claim or not.

The third Enrolment Registry was published on April 22, 1995. 2,039 participants are listed. This number increased to 2,077 by March 31, 1996. Given there is estimated to be 2,200 potential Gwich'in beneficiaries, the Board has enrolled 94%, with 6% (123 people) left to be enrolled.

The Board completed extensive work on the development of a database of Gwich'in family history and genealogy to help beneficiaries trace their family histories. This work involved consultation with Elders, especially Sarah Simon of Fort McPherson. The second genealogy workshop happened in Tsiigehtchic from March 25-29, 1996. Knowledge of individual family histo-

ries was discussed by Doris Itsi and Ernest Bonnet-plume of Fort McPherson; Mary Kendi and Fanny Greenland of Aklavik; Hyacinthe Andre and Lisa Andre of Tsiigehtchic; Catherine Mitchell and Annie Jane Charlie of Inuvik; Lydia Thomas and Georgie Moses of Old Crow, Yukon; and Effie Linklater of Whitehorse, Yukon. This workshop was videotaped and is available for future generations as a continuing record of Gwich'in history.

The Implementation Plan for the Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim calls for the Board to do most of its work in the first two years of its existence, scaling down the work during the last three years. The Board currently meets twice a year. We encourage all potential Gwich'in beneficiaries to register with the Enrolment Board and be a part of the Gwich'in Land Claim.

Members who have previously served on the Board

James Gardlund	Aklavik
Tommy Wright	Inuvik
Sue Moffatt	Inuvik
Louisa Andre	Tsiigehtchic

Board members

Barb Crawford	Chair
Dolly Carmichael	Inuvik
Robert Alexie Sr.	Ft. McPherson
Frank Edwards Sr.	Aklavik
No appointee	Tsiigehtchic
Rosemary Cairns	Yellowknife
Faj Downe	Yellowknife*

*appointed by the Government of Canada.



Caroline Alexie at T'poondih in February, 1996.

Photo: Robert A. Alexie

Bob Simpson & Brian Ferguson Land and Water Board

The creation of boards to regulate land, water and environment requires development and passage of the federal Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA). This act has been delayed but is expected to be passed by parliament this fall. In the meantime, the Gwich'in Land and Water Working Group was formed last November to begin the preparatory work of the Gwich'in Land and Water Board as they wait for parliamentary approval of the MVRMA.

The working group hired Brian Ferguson as Executive Director. Brian is a resident of Inuvik who was previously employed as Acting Area Manager and Habitat Biologist with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Brian brings to the Board environmental assessment, permitting and licensing experience.

The Working Group developed a work plan for the fiscal year 1996-'97. This work plan includes:

- ◆ Developing and implementing an integrated resource management plan;
- ◆ Developing a geographic information system that can store and use information about existing resources, land and water use in the Settlement Area;
- ◆ Supporting the Renewable Resource Board's Traditional Environmental Knowledge Project;
- ◆ Preparing appropriate application forms and procedures for land use permits and water licenses; and,
- ◆ Hiring technical staff to permit and li-



Richardson Mountains near Rat River.

Photo: Peter Clarkson

cense any applications for development.

◆ Integrated Management

An important part of the 1996-'97 work plan is to develop an integrated resource management system. This means coordinating activities of the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Land Use Planning Board, the Land and Water Board and eventually the Environmental Impact Review Board. Integrated resource management will allow the boards to work together on issues of common concern. Land and water will be regulated co-operatively and in a manner that will have the least impact on our environment. Essential to the development of this system will be involvement by the community, primarily with assistance from local Renewable Resources Councils.

With a budget of \$600,000, the

Land and Water Working Group will lay the foundation for the Land and Water Board as they prepare for the passage of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.

Working Group members

Gwich'in members

Robert Alexie Jr.
Willard Hagen

GNWT member

David Krutko

Canada's member

Norma Kassi

Resource People

Bob Simpson
Peter Bannon
Pierre Laporte.



Gwich'in beneficiary/participant is a person who is listed in the Enrolment Registry of the Gwich'in Land Claim.



Eleanor Mitchell

Gwich'in Language Centre

The Gwich'in Language Centre (GLC) resumed operation on September 5, 1995 to coincide with the school year. Eleanor Mitchell and Betty Vittrekwa are full-time employees. Translators and artists were hired on contract, as required. This school year began by organizing the centre's resources. Reorganization was completed at the end of October and the discovery of forgotten resources has given us fresh, new ideas.

Each Friday afternoon from 2:30-4:00 pm, Betty and I do a radio show on our local radio station CBQM. We let the community know what we're doing and what services we have available and we have received positive community response. We also play tapes of Elders telling stories — as this is one part of Gwich'in tradition that is quickly disappearing.

The principal and teachers from Chief Julius School shared our offices after the school burned down. Surprisingly, we have all adjusted very well.

♦ Projects

The GLC was involved in many projects, including translating children's stories, developing Gwich'in Language lessons and producing multimedia resources. Specific projects are as follows.

Book covers were redone on six children's story books produced in 1994-'95 because we were not satisfied with the first ones. Complete assembly of over 600 books was done by hand in December.

The Gwich'in Language Lessons book and cassette previously done by William George Firth required some corrections. As there was no copy on disk, the entire book was retyped. Mary Effie Snowshoe brought in 90 minute tapes from her students and we recorded the Gwich'in language lessons for them. We provide recordings and books to interested people and people taking Gwich'in language night classes in Inuvik. We also have people asking us to dub their relatives' stories off of tapes. We will do this as long as they supply their own blank tape.

Betty began working on the Rabbit Unit for schools. This unit will include a "how to" book along with a video on setting rabbit snares, butchering and cooking the rabbit. A translator was hired to translate the English text to Gwich'in.

Betty started the layout of the English text for the Muskrat Hunting and Trapping Unit. A translator was hired to translate the English text to Gwich'in. In late March we hired a local artist to do illustrations for the Muskrat Hunting and Trapping Unit, various illustrations for a colouring book and the required illustration for the Rabbit Unit. In April, Betty videotaped and documented methods used for muskrat trapping. The information collected will be used in the Muskrat Hunting and Trapping Unit to be worked on in the 1996-'97 school year.

The Childhood Experiences are fully illustrated stories that began at the Centre a number of years ago. We have been working on four projects, including the legend "The Flood".

Betty put together a book on Easter long ago. The stories in this book are collected from local Elders in the community.

We hired a local woman to read children's stories on tape in the Gwich'in language to go along with the books. The tapes are complete although they still need editing.

We had a request from a movie production company for Gwich'in translation. In the movie, the actor will speak in the Gwich'in language by using the cassette we produced.

In May, we began work on a Gwich'in colouring book. Most of the illustrations are done and once the layout is complete it will be sent to Gwich'in Geographics in Inuvik.

Betty is putting a 1997 calendar together with old pictures from the Centre.

♦ Workshops

Workshops, seminars and open houses give the Gwich'in Language Centre access to new ideas and provide us with feedback and input into our work from community members throughout the year.

A Gwich'in Literacy Workshop was held in Whitehorse from November 21-23, 1995. The GLC sent Gwich'in language instructors Effie Blake from Fort McPherson and Annie B. Gordon from Aklavik.

On November 23, we had an open house in support of Addictions Awareness Week. We had a good turn out with approximately 60 people going through the Centre.

Kaiik'it gwizhìt tr'igwindàii

Yahkha' gwinoow gwats'at zhehk'oo leii nat dachan tat gu'gwich'in. Shreendit gwandoo dzan, kheh ts'at dats'an eenjit natr'aarih. Shin hee chihvyah atr'uu'aih.

Khaints'an' danh dinjik eenjit chan natr'aarih, khaii chan vadzaih nijin gwa'an nahaa'oo chan vik'ee tr'adadal. Aii tl'ee Zheh neetr'adadal. Ezhik danh shih haa neetr'adadal aii tl'ee chan lavasdaa tr'ahtsih, aii tl'ee chan atr'aadzoh. Khaii hee chan lai k'adiiyilik, guuzhit shin chan nehkak choo ha tsiitr'idi'ih. Drin neekaii, tik gwindoo tsii'in ndoo naa'ai tl'ee nihk'yuu dachan tat gwits'ee tr'adadal, akoo dagweheeda'aa gwich'in anjoo kat eenjit troo, luu haa tr'oonjih.

Community Life

Until recently, most families spent much of the year out on the land. Spring was the season to hunt muskrat, geese and ducks. Summer was the time to net fish. In the falltime everyone hunted moose, while in winter people followed the caribou herds through the mountains.

When people returned to town, they cooked the foods they had gathered and held a feast. The feast was followed by dancing into the early morning hours. In winter there were dog races and snowshoe races, while in summer people played old-time football.

After a few days of celebrating, most people went back to their camps — but not before they cut wood and hauled fresh water or ice for the Elders who remained in town.

Betty attended the Dene Kede Advisory Committee Meeting in Yellowknife from January 29-February 1, 1996. Research projects for the Dene Kede Advisory Committee included interviewing Elders on personal talents, sewing, making medicine, education and Elder profiles. All the information collected from Betty's interviews will be used in the Dene Kede Curriculum. Betty also attended the Dene Kede Advisory Committee meeting in Yellowknife on March 26-28, 1996.

We held a Literacy Workshop at the GLC in Fort McPherson from February 12-16, 1996. The workshop was facilitated by William G. Firth. The small turn-out was disappointing. The only two Gwich'in language teachers in attendance were Bella Kay of Inuvik and Annie B. Gordon of Aklavik. Ruth Carrol of CBC also attended the workshop. Annie and Nap Norbert from Tsiigehtchic were on hand for dialectal differences in writing and terminology. At the workshop we covered the

writing system that is used at the present time and the similarities and differences with the modern versus the McDonald version of writing. Terminology of snow and weather conditions were also covered.

Eleanor attended an archival workshop in March on Caring for Materials in the Community. The workshop was very informative and will enable us to protect our collections from environmental effects which can do considerable damage to our archives.

♦ Future

For the remainder of June we hope to complete all the projects that we've been working on this school year. I am expecting to meet with John Ritter and Alestine Andre to go over the layout of a new Gwich'in Noun Dictionary.

For next year, we will focus on producing more Teachers' Guides. It would be much easier if we had the equipment to put our materials together here at the Centre and we will seek support for this initiative.

♦ Conclusion

Since we opened the Centre in September, 1995 we have been gathering information for different organizations in the communities. Researching and writing for these people has taken a lot of time away from our original work. In realizing that we are doing more research for others, and setting aside our own projects, we have asked people to come into the Centre and do their own research.

This has been the busiest year that I've experienced yet in relation to requested translations and information. The Centre has become very popular this school year and the younger students are showing an interest in learning the Gwich'in language.

Dialectal differences are different varieties of the same language, depending on where the speaker is from.



Financial Comptroller's Report
March 31, 1996

The financial statements of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1996, make up the concluding section of the Annual Report. Two separate financial statements have been prepared. The Combined Financial Statements include the activities of the Operations Fund. The Consolidated Financial statements of the Land Claim Settlement Fund include all details of financial transactions dealing with the land claim settlement.

I. Combined Financial Statements - Operations Fund

The Operations Fund includes the operating activities of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Gwich'in Healing Society. In total the fund disbursed approximately \$5,200,000. Of this amount \$3,200,000 was provided by external sources. The Gwich'in Land Claim Settlement Fund contributed approximately \$1,800,000.

Disbursements from the Gwich'in Land Claim Settlement Fund, in this fiscal year, include Gwich'in Healing Society (\$1,200,000), Gwich'in Tribal Council (\$500,000) and Social and Cultural Institute (\$90,000). Expenditures in 1996 exceeded revenues by \$220,573 which was funded by a surplus carried forward from 1995.

II. Consolidated Financial Statements - Land Claim Settlement Fund

The Gwich'in Tribal Council has received \$27,333,534 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. Investments and contributions have been made as follows:

Investments

Land Claim Settlement Fund	\$342,000
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	10,200,000
Tl'oondih Healing Camp	2,104,523
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust	725,000
Gwich'in Development Corporation	13,000,000
	<u>26,371,523</u>

Contributions

Gwich'in Healing Society - 1995/96 Operations	1,200,000
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute - 1995/96 Operations	80,000
Gwich'in Tribal Council - 1995/96 Operations	500,000
Gwich'in Tribal Council - 1994/95 Operations	500,000 - DGO
Other - 1994/95	140,407 - Willow Creek Royalties
	<u>2,420,407</u> - 10% of claim

Total disbursements \$28,791,930 → 1.4% of additional interest earned.

These disbursements include \$1,458,396 of interest earned on the funds prior to distribution.



Investments

Details of investments made by the Land Claim Settlement Fund include the following:

1. Gwich'in Settlement Corporation

The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation has received \$10,200,000 from the Gwich'in Tribal Council to date. These funds have been invested in Triple A Government Bonds. *as of Mar 31/96*

An investment strategy was developed on February 20, 1994 and is contained in the Gwich'in Financial Road Map document. This document was developed by the delegates at the Gwich'in Financial Roundtable Conference. A new investment by-law is being developed to address the timing and amount of funding, investment objectives and the permanent nature of the fund.

As at March 31, 1996, the accumulated equity was \$11,023,000. During the year, a distribution of \$179,000 was made from this fund to Gwich'in Elders.

2. Tl'oondih Healing Camp

Tl'oondih Healing Camp was completed this year at a total cost of \$2,104,523. This facility is being rented by the Gwich'in Healing Society.

3. Gwich'in Harvesters' Assistance Trust

During the 1995 annual assembly, it was decided to make three annual contributions of \$725,000 to the Harvesters Assistance Trust. This amount will be matched by the Government of the Northwest Territories. At March 31, 1996 the Trust received the first contribution from the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The balance in the trust was \$1,450,000 at that date. *3 Contributions*
To date → 2.9 Million

4. Gwich'in Development Corporation

The purpose of the Gwich'in Development Corporation 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 \$13,000,000 has been invested in the Gwich'in Development Corporation as follows:

Tet'it Zeh Construction Ltd.	\$1,000,000 - LOAN
Tet'it Zeh Trucking Ltd.	1,300,000 - LOAN
Klondike River Lodge Ltd.	900,000 - LOAN
Gwich'in Properties Ltd.	5,500,000 - LOAN
Larga Ltd.	260,000 - INVESTMENT
Gwich'in Geographics Ltd.	140,000 - "
Other	3,000,000 - INVESTMENT OUTSIDE GSA. (6 HOUSES BUILT) JTB APN SOLD 1 MILLION 2000 16 LOTS IN YK 7 MILLION DEVELOPMENT 0 C-JEKO 450,000. EGDC-425,000 → 120 paid
	<u>\$13,000,000</u>

On a consolidated basis, the Gwich'in Development Corporation lost approximately \$185,000 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1995. The consolidated loss is primarily a result of losses incurred by Klondike River Lodge Ltd. Consequently, we have restructured the ownership and management of this company. With a new management team, we anticipate that Klondike River Lodge Ltd. and the Gwich'in Development Corporation will be profitable in the future.

by Gregory D. Cayen, C.A., Comptroller



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Combined Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 1996

Management's Report

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Management's Report

The management of the Gwich'in Tribal Council is responsible for the integrity of the accompanying financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of the financial statements necessarily includes some amounts which are based on the best estimates and judgements of management.

To assist in meeting its responsibility, management maintains accounting and other internal controls. These controls provide reasonable assurance that transactions are appropriately authorized and accurately recorded, that assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded, in order that the integrity of financial records is maintained.

The financial statements have been audited by the independent firm KPMG Peat Marwick Thorne, Chartered Accountants. Their report to the Members of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, stating the scope of their examination and opinion on the financial statements, follows.

Robert A. Alexie

Greg Cayen, ca



Auditors' Report to the Members

We have audited the combined statement of financial position of the Gwich'in Tribal Council as at March 31, 1996 and the combined statement of operations and changes in fund balances and changes in financial position of the Council 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.

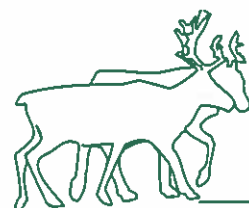
In our opinion, these combined financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 1996 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

H.P.M. G. Paul Marwick Thorne

Chartered Accountants

Edmonton, Canada

May 15, 1996



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Combined Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 1996, with comparative figures for 1995

	1996	1995 (Restated)
Assets		
<i>Current assets:</i>		
Cash	\$218,134	\$278,307
Accounts receivable	647,238	529,591
Loans receivable (note 2)	2,900	26,546
Prepaid expenses	15,275	1,903
	<u>883,547</u>	<u>836,347</u>
Capital assets (note 3)	221,709	166,626
Land claim settlement fund assets, net	92,332,483	88,374,600
	<u>\$93,437,739</u>	<u>\$89,377,573</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balances

<i>Current liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable	\$820,436	\$378,115
Deferred revenue	65,211	239,759
	<u>885,647</u>	<u>617,874</u>
<i>Fund balances:</i>		
Invested in capital assets	221,709	166,626
Operating fund	(2,100)	218,473
Land claim settlement fund	92,332,483	88,374,600
	<u>92,552,092</u>	<u>88,759,699</u>
	<u>\$93,437,739</u>	<u>\$89,377,573</u>

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.

On behalf of the Council:

Director

Director



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Combined Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended March 31, 1996, with comparative figures for 1995

	Operating Fund	Capital Asset Fund	Land Claim Settlement Fund	Total	1995 Total
	(Schedule)				(Restated)
Revenues:					
Contributions:					
DIAND	\$1,380,767	\$-	\$-	\$1,380,767	\$1,651,363
Government of Canada	533,792	-	-	533,792	33,116
Government of Northwest Territories	605,900	-	-	605,900	450,806
Interest	32,442	-	-	32,442	-
Management fees	-	-	-	-	120,000
Royalties	327,744	-	-	327,744	197,009
Donations	22,150	-	-	22,150	-
Other	195,333	-	-	195,333	40,738
Equity in earnings of Land Claims Settlement Fund	-	-	5,747,883	5,747,883	5,974,325
	3,098,128	-	5,747,883	8,846,011	8,467,357
Deferred revenue, beginning of year	239,759	-	-	239,759	134,548
Deferred revenue, end of year	(65,211)	-	-	(65,211)	(239,759)
	3,272,676	-	5,747,883	9,020,559	8,362,146
Expenditures:					
Rent	193,834	-	-	193,834	160,129
Honoraria	73,926	-	-	73,926	100,066
Salaries and benefits	1,872,076	-	-	1,872,076	1,158,394
External consultants	384,948	-	-	384,948	222,925
Community coordinators	-	-	-	-	106,853
Professional fees	121,042	-	-	121,042	189,475
Administration	519,072	-	-	519,072	261,558
Travel	543,448	-	-	543,448	375,944
Donations	51,719	-	-	51,719	31,615
Christmas hampers	33,818	-	-	33,818	34,766
Annual report	21,740	-	-	21,740	-
Annual general assembly	65,231	-	-	65,231	59,143
Special assemblies	81,084	-	-	81,084	48,769
Camp operations and maintenance	463,740	-	-	463,740	-
Amortization of capital assets	-	69,478	-	69,478	43,530
	4,425,678	69,478	-	4,495,156	2,793,167
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures before the undernoted	(1,153,002)	(69,478)	5,747,883	4,525,403	5,568,979
Contributions:					
Renewable Resource Councils	333,010	-	-	333,010	137,275
Elders Fund	-	-	-	-	20,673
Gwich'in Business Development Fund	100,000	-	-	100,000	-
Designated Gwich'in Organizations	300,000	-	-	300,000	309,981
Interfund transfers (note 4)	(1,665,439)	(124,561)	1,790,000	-	-
	(932,429)	(124,561)	1,790,000	733,010	467,929
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(220,573)	55,083	3,957,883	3,792,393	5,101,050
Fund balances, beginning of year	218,473	166,626	88,374,600	88,759,699	83,658,649
Fund balances, end of year	\$2,100	\$221,709	\$92,332,483	\$92,552,092	\$88,759,699

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.



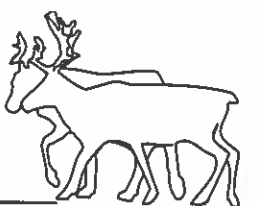
Gwich'in Tribal Council

Combined Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 1996, with comparative figures for 1995

	1996	1995
		(Restated)
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities:		
Excess of revenues over expenditures before contributions	\$4,525,403	\$5,568,979
Item which does not involve cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	69,478	43,530
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(117,647)	(114,819)
Loans receivable	23,646	3,600
Prepaid expenses	(13,372)	(1,903)
Accounts payable	442,321	264,875
Deferred revenue	(174,548)	105,211
	4,755,281	5,869,473
Financing and investing activities:		
Contributions to:		
Renewable Resource Councils	(333,010)	(137,275)
Elders Fund	-	(20,673)
Gwich'in Business Development Fund	(100,000)	-
Designated Gwich'in Organizations	(300,000)	(309,981)
Purchase of capital assets	(124,561)	(91,296)
Increase in Land Claim Settlement Fund assets	(3,957,883)	(5,348,335)
	(4,815,454)	(5,907,560)
Decrease in cash	(60,173)	(38,087)
Cash, beginning of year	278,307	316,394
Cash, end of year	\$218,134	\$278,307

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Notes to Combined Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

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 Métis Locals of the four communities of Aklavik, Arctic Red River, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. The Council is incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act.

The objectives of the Council include the following:

- to protect and preserve the rights, interest and benefits of the Gwich'in in reference to their use, ownership and management of lands, waters and resources in the Gwich'in settlement area;
- to retain, preserve and enhance the traditional and cultural values, customs and language of the Gwich'in in a changing society;
- to develop and promote economic, social, educational and cultural programs that will enable the Gwich'in to become self-sufficient and full participating members in a global society;
- to uphold the rights, interest and benefits of the Gwich'in in reference to the Constitution Act, Treaty 11 and the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement; and
- to receive, preserve and enhance the capital and the lands and other benefits transferred to the Gwich'in pursuant to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement signed on April 22, 1992.

1. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Combined financial statements and 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.

The operating fund includes the combined operating accounts of the Council and the revenue, expenditures, assets and liabilities of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Gwich'in Healing Society. All significant interfund assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures have been eliminated.

The capital asset fund includes the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures relating to the Council's capital acquisition plans.

The Land Claim Settlement fund includes the land claim settlement accounts of the Council and the revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities of the following entities:

Entity	Year end
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	March 31, 1996
Gwich'in Development Corporation	December 31, 1995
Gwich'in Land Corporation	March 31, 1996
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	March 31, 1996



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Notes to Combined Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

(b) Revenue recognition:

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 revenue of the appropriate fund in the year in which the related expenditures are made.

(c) Capital assets:

Capital assets are recorded in the capital asset fund at cost. Amortization expense is recorded in the capital asset fund using the following method and annual rates:

Asset	Basis	Rate
Buildings	Declining balance	5%
Computer hardware and software	Declining balance	30%
Equipment	Declining balance	20%
Furniture and fixtures	Declining balance	20%
Automotive	Straight-line	30%
Marine	Straight-line	30%
Telecommunications	Straight-line	30%

2. Loans receivable:

Loans receivable represent 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 Combined Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

3. Capital assets:

			1996	1995
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$5,000	\$-	\$5,000	\$5,000
Buildings	36,000	8,864	27,136	28,564
Computer hardware and software	138,413	84,380	54,033	49,935
Equipment	79,158	39,208	39,950	46,939
Furniture and fixtures	67,133	33,033	34,100	36,188
Automotive	39,253	11,776	27,477	-
Marine	37,611	11,283	26,328	-
Telecommunication	10,978	3,293	7,685	-
	\$413,546	\$191,837	\$221,709	\$166,626

4. Interfund transfers:

During the year, \$1,790,000 was transferred from the land claim settlement fund to the operating fund in order to fund the cash outlays for current year operating expenditures as follows:

Gwich'in Tribal Council - operating	\$510,000
Gwich'in Healing Society	1,200,000
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute	80,000
	\$1,790,000

In addition, \$124,561 was transferred from the operating fund to the capital asset fund in order to fund the cash outlays for capital asset acquisitions.



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Notes to Combined Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

5. Trust assets and liabilities:

The Gwich'in Tribal Council administers the following trusts on behalf of their beneficiaries. Transactions within the trusts during the current year are summarized below. They have been excluded from the combined financial statements.

	March 31, 1995	Contributions	March 31, 1996
Gwich'in Trust	\$1	\$-	\$1
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust	-	1,450,000	1,450,000
	\$1	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,001

6. Related entities:

The Council exhibits significant influence over the following entities:

(i) Gwich'in Enrollment Board:

The Gwich'in Enrollment Board was incorporated under the Societies Act of the Northwest Territories. The Board was established:

- (a) to enroll persons who are eligible to be enrolled pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, and for whom application for enrollment has been received;
- (b) to establish and publish an Enrollment Register once a year, and maintain therein a record of all enrolled persons;
- (c) to maintain a record of those persons whose applications for enrollment were rejected and notify such applicants of the right to appeal from any decision with respect to enrollment;
- (d) to prepare an annual budget for the operation of the Enrollment Board and present it for review and approval to the Government of Canada;
- (e) to prepare and provide application forms and information;
- (f) to determine its procedures and rules of evidence in order to conduct its objective; and
- (g) to prepare and provide proof of enrollment to each participant.



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Notes to Combined Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

6. Related entities, continued:

(ii) Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board:

The Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board was incorporated under the Societies Act of the Northwest Territories. The Board was established to conduct land use planning in the Gwich'in Settlement area on the basis of the plan developed by the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea Regional Land Use Planning Commission and in accordance with the July 28, 1983 "Basis of Agreement for Land Use Planning in the Northwest Territories".

(iii) Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board:

The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board ("Board") is the main instrument of wildlife management and conservation in the Gwich'in Settlement Region. It may introduce policies and propose regulations for forest management, wildlife harvesting and for the business and operation of guiding and outfitting, hunting, fishing and naturalist lodges.

The Board may participate in harvesting studies, data collection and in the evaluation of wildlife research. It is intended that the Board have an independent research capability, to the extent agreed by government and which does not duplicate research which is otherwise available to it.

(iv) Gwich'in Wildlife Studies Fund:

The Gwich'in Wildlife Studies Fund has been established to fund research about wildlife since the current managers of wildlife in the Gwich'in Settlement region do not conduct wildlife research at a level sufficient to provide the type and amount of information anticipated that the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board will require.

The government departments with management responsibilities will continue to conduct their current level of wildlife research in the Gwich'in Settlement region and will keep the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board informed of the research projects being conducted, and those planned. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board will not duplicate research conducted by government departments.

The equity balance in the Fund as at March 31, 1996 was \$2,464,913.

7. Changes in accounting policy:

The Council has changed its method of accounting for capital assets. In prior years, capital assets were expensed in the year of acquisition and recorded as capital assets offset by investments in capital assets. Capital assets are now capitalized and amortized over their estimated useful lives. As a result, the capital assets and investments in capital assets have decreased by \$165,455. Amortization relating to years prior to 1995 amounted to \$78,829. These changes have been applied retroactively.

Certain other comparative figures have been restated to conform with the current year's presentation.



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Schedule of Operating Fund Revenues and Expenditures

Year ended March 31, 1996

	Core Activities	Program Activities	Tl'oondih Healing Camp	Social and Cultural	Total
Revenues:					
<i>Contributions:</i>					
DIAND	\$1,174,100	\$206,667	\$-	\$-	\$1,380,767
Government of Canada	40,000	250,534	97,622	145,636	533,792
Government of Northwest Territories	32,806	34,533	386,252	152,309	605,900
Interest	31,053	-	-	1,389	32,442
Royalties	-	327,744	-	-	327,744
Donations	-	-	22,150	-	22,150
Other	75,889	7,030	50,794	61,620	195,333
	1,353,848	826,508	556,818	360,954	3,098,128
Deferred revenue, beginning of year	-	239,759	-	-	239,759
Deferred revenue, end of year	-	(65,211)	-	-	(65,211)
	1,353,848	1,001,056	556,818	360,954	3,272,676
Expenditures:					
Rent	104,128	11,755	55,382	22,569	193,834
Honoraria	59,506	10,345	4,075	-	73,926
Salaries and benefits	691,876	162,290	863,256	154,654	1,872,076
External consultants	168,250	120,661	-	96,037	384,948
Professional fees	65,476	42,936	8,533	4,097	121,042
Administration	154,980	136,636	110,296	117,160	519,072
Travel	189,808	147,060	160,877	45,703	543,448
Donations	-	51,719	-	-	51,719
Christmas hampers	33,818	-	-	-	33,818
Annual report	21,740	-	-	-	21,740
Annual general assembly	65,231	-	-	-	65,231
Special assemblies	81,084	-	-	-	81,084
Camp operations and maintenance	-	-	463,740	-	463,740
	1,635,897	683,402	1,666,159	440,220	4,425,678
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures before the undernoted	(282,049)	317,654	(1,109,341)	(79,266)	(1,153,002)
<i>Contributions:</i>					
Renewable Resource Councils	-	(333,010)	-	-	(333,010)
Gwich'in Business Development Fund	(100,000)	-	-	-	(100,000)
Designated Gwich'in Organizations	(300,000)	-	-	-	(300,000)
Interfund transfer	463,281	-	1,112,158	90,000	1,665,439
	63,281	(333,010)	1,112,158	90,000	932,429
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$(218,768)	\$(15,356)	\$2,817	\$10,734	(220,573)
Fund balance, beginning of year					218,473
Fund balance, end of year					\$(2,100)



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 1996

Auditors' Report to the Members

Financial Statements:

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

Consolidated Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Auditors' Report to the Members

We have audited the consolidated statement of financial position of the Gwich'in Tribal Council land claim settlement fund as at March 31, 1996 and the consolidated statement of operations and changes in fund balance and changes in financial position of the fund 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 fund as at March 31, 1996 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.

HPM G Paul Morwick Thore

Chartered Accountants

Edmonton, Canada

May 15, 1996



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 1996, with comparative figures for 1995


	1996	1995
Assets		
<i>Current assets:</i>		
Cash	\$1,610,344	\$2,238,977
Accounts receivable	2,150,417	1,771,562
Inventory	145,710	114,425
Notes receivable (note 2)	60,000	33,319
Property inventory held for resale	1,185,991	-
Land inventory held for resale	992,318	-
Work-in-progress, at cost	-	49,737
Current portion of mortgages receivable	949,257	175,000
Current portion of future settlement proceeds	4,443,299	1,992,607
Prepaid expenses and deposits	148,301	15,188
	11,685,637	6,390,815
<i>Portfolio investments [market value of \$11,064,996 (1995 - \$10,239,241)] (note 3)</i>	11,027,131	10,267,479
Mortgages receivable (note 4)	122,420	450,000
Long-term investments (note 5)	305,872	283,125
Income producing properties (note 6)	6,621,365	4,802,848
Capital assets (note 7)	2,993,535	1,325,261
Future settlement proceeds [note 9(a)]	71,231,398	75,674,697
	\$103,987,358	\$99,194,225

Liabilities and Fund Balance

<i>Current liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable	\$1,329,114	\$972,932
Deferred revenue	103,991	-
Current portion of long-term debt	391,918	61,071
Current portion of claims loan agreement	639,203	377,257
	2,464,226	1,411,260
Long-term debt (note 8)	516,978	119,195
Claims loan agreement [note 9(c)]	8,649,967	9,289,170
Deferred income taxes	7,702	-
Minority interest	16,002	-
Land claim settlement fund balance	92,332,483	88,374,600
Settlement lands [note 9(b)]		
	\$103,987,358	\$99,194,225

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Council:


Director

Director



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Consolidated Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance

Year ended March 31, 1996, with comparative figures for 1995

	1996	1995
<i>Revenue:</i>		
Sales	\$12,114,552	\$6,196,851
Interest on land claim settlement proceeds	6,368,753	7,050,122
Interest and other	1,072,824	495,406
	19,556,129	13,742,379
<i>Expenditures:</i>		
Cost of sales	10,055,833	5,675,143
Selling, general and administrative	1,373,247	755,410
Depreciation and amortization	858,800	357,786
Interest on claims loan agreement	529,035	547,156
Elders payments	177,000	-
Education and training	81,024	150,725
Interest on long-term debt	42,039	16,462
Interest and other	27,720	61,603
	13,144,698	7,564,285
Excess of revenue over expenditures before the undernoted	6,411,431	6,178,094
<i>Other revenue (expenditures):</i>		
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(30,795)	-
Forgiveness of debt	25,000	36,389
Management fee	-	(120,000)
Equity in earnings of Larga Ltd.	52,747	-
Gain on disposal of investments	58,016	-
Change in value of investments	(35,658)	-
	69,310	(83,611)
Excess of revenue over expenditures before income taxes	6,480,741	6,094,483
<i>Income taxes:</i>		
Current (recovery)	62,032	(14,974)
Benefit of losses carried forward	(61,876)	-
Deferred (reduction)	7,702	(5,275)
	7,858	(20,249)
Excess of revenue over expenditures before contributions	6,472,883	6,114,732
<i>Contributions to:</i>		
Gwich'in Tribal Council Operations	510,000	625,990
Gwich'in Healing Society	1,200,000	-
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute	80,000	-
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust	725,000	-
Gwich'in Trust	-	1
Distribution of Willow Creek royalties to Aklavik Gwich'in Council	-	140,407
	2,515,000	766,398
Excess of revenue over expenditures after contributions	3,957,883	5,348,334
Land Claim Settlement fund balance, beginning of year	88,374,600	83,026,266
Land Claim Settlement fund balance, end of year	\$92,332,483	\$88,374,600

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, 1996, with comparative figures for 1995

	1996	1995
<i>Cash provided by (used in):</i>		
<i>Operations:</i>		
Excess of revenue over expenditures before contributions	\$6,472,883	\$6,114,732
Items which do not involve cash:		
Deferred income taxes	7,702	(5,275)
Depreciation and amortization	858,800	357,786
Equity in earnings of Larga Ltd.	(52,747)	-
Loss on disposal of capital assets	30,795	-
Forgiveness of debt	(25,000)	-
Change in non-cash operating working capital (note 12)	(2,195,650)	(1,022,492)
	5,096,783	5,444,751
<i>Financing:</i>		
Increase in long-term debt	979,366	180,266
Repayment of long-term debt	(225,736)	-
Claims loan agreement	(377,257)	547,155
	376,373	727,421
<i>Investments:</i>		
Increase in mortgages receivable	(621,677)	(345,251)
Principal repayments of mortgages receivable	175,000	-
Increase in notes receivable	(60,000)	(33,319)
Principal repayments of notes receivable	33,319	801,026
Purchase of long-term investments	-	(283,125)
Purchase of income producing properties	(2,745,177)	(1,783,190)
Proceeds from disposal of income producing properties	645,818	24,351
Purchase of capital assets	(2,403,975)	(1,351,503)
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets	126,948	80,560
Decrease (increase) in future settlement proceeds	1,992,607	(253,262)
Contributions to:		
Gwich'in Tribal Council Operations	(510,000)	(625,990)
Gwich'in Healing Society	(1,200,000)	-
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute	(80,000)	-
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust	(725,000)	-
Gwich'in Trust	-	(1)
Distribution of Willow Creek royalties to Aklavik Gwich'in Council	-	(140,407)
Dividends received from Larga Ltd.	30,000	-
	(5,342,137)	(3,910,111)
<i>Increase in cash and portfolio investments</i>	<i>131,019</i>	<i>2,262,061</i>
<i>Cash and portfolio investments, beginning of year</i>	<i>12,506,456</i>	<i>10,244,395</i>
<i>Cash and portfolio investments, end of year</i>	<i>\$12,637,475</i>	<i>\$12,506,456</i>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 1996

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.

1. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Basis of presentation:

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 end
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	March 31, 1996
Gwich'in Development Corporation	December 31, 1995
Gwich'in Land Corporation	March 31, 1996
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	March 31, 1996

(b) Inventory:

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

(c) Property and land inventory held for resale:

Property and land inventory held for resale is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

(d) Portfolio investments:

Portfolio investments are recorded at cost, or at cost less amounts written off to reflect a decline in value.

(e) 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 investments are adjusted for the Council's share of post-acquisition earnings or losses less dividends received.



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

(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%
Signage	Straight-line	5 Years
Furniture	Declining balance	10%
Construction camp	Declining balance	10%

(g) Capital assets:

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

Asset	Basis	Rate
Land improvements	Straight-line	5 Years
Building - Klondike River Lodge	Declining balance	5% - 10%
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	10 Years
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
Rights to contracts	Straight-line	10 Years



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

(h) Revenue recognition:

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

Aklavik Gwich'in Council	Nihtar 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	Gwich'in Healing Society
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust	

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

2. Notes receivable:

	1996	1995
Note with interest on the principal sum calculated at a rate of 8% per annum compounded semi-annually, repayable on demand		
	\$-	\$33,319
Note, non-interest bearing and repayable on demand	60,000	-
	\$60,000	\$33,319

3. Portfolio investments:

Portfolio investments are comprised of:

	1996	1995
Cash	\$7,322,388	\$5,499
Provincial and federal government bonds	3,461,426	10,000,000
Accrued interest	243,317	261,980
	\$11,027,131	\$10,267,479



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

4. Mortgages receivable:

	1996	1995
Gwich'in Shonili Kat Zheh Ltd., 8% mortgage receivable in monthly installments of \$6,239 including interest, due December 31, 2008	\$159,626	\$—
Nihtat Gwich'in Council mortgage, non-interest bearing, repayable on demand	428,706	—
933336 NWT Ltd., 12% mortgage receivable in monthly installments of interest only and principal due on August 31, 1996	450,000	450,000
Mortgage, with interest on the principal sum calculated at a rate of 8% per annum, compounded semi-annually, repayable on demand	33,345	—
Arctic Red River Incorporated Band Ltd., 8% mortgage receivable in monthly installments of \$1,672 including interest, due December 31, 2008	—	175,000
	1,071,677	625,000
Current portion of mortgages receivable	949,257	175,000
	\$122,420	\$450,000

5. Long-term investments:

	1996	1995
Investments in associated companies:		
Larga Ltd. (37.5% interest):		
Cost	\$262,500	\$262,500
Share of undistributed earnings	22,747	—
	285,247	262,500
3180018 Manitoba Ltd. (25% interest):		
Cost	20,625	20,625
	\$305,872	\$283,125



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

6. Income producing properties:

			1996	1995
	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Net book value	Net book value
Housing:				
- Ft. McPherson				
- building	\$1,067,256	\$96,993	\$970,263	\$872,625
- land	68,897	—	68,897	—
- Aklavik				
- building	287,656	28,045	259,611	273,273
- land	10,000	—	10,000	—
- Inuvik				
- building	540,919	52,741	488,178	513,872
- land	59,001	—	59,001	59,001
Opel building				
- building	1,204,288	—	1,204,288	—
- land	300,000	—	300,000	—
TToondih Healing Camp				
- building	1,954,815	97,740	1,857,075	1,384,597
Inuvik - Visitors Centre				
- land	100,000	—	100,000	—
- Church	90,000	—	90,000	—
Construction shop				
- building	375,045	26,344	348,701	241,779
- land	56,000	—	56,000	56,000
Construction camp				
- building	80,560	4,028	76,532	80,560
Trucking shop				
- building	5,000	250	4,750	—
- land	15,000	—	15,000	—
Office building				
- Fort McPherson	752,708	91,938	660,770	694,348
- Inuvik	—	—	—	606,303
- land	25,000	—	25,000	—
Dawson				
Signage	3,475	1,390	2,085	7,251
Furniture	32,988	7,774	25,214	13,239
	\$7,028,608	\$407,243	\$6,621,365	\$4,802,848

7. Capital assets:

			1996	1995
	Cost	Accumulated depreciation and amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$37,454	\$—	\$37,454	\$37,454
Land improvements	25,858	5,172	20,686	—
Building - Klondike River Lodge	486,103	31,750	454,353	340,280
Leasehold improvements	17,971	1,797	16,174	—
Automotive	204,465	76,053	128,412	82,036
Heavy equipment, trailers and accessories	2,081,643	338,870	1,742,773	484,393
Equipment and tools	216,845	59,311	157,534	120,977
Furniture and fixtures	23,711	6,377	17,334	5,529
Computer hardware and software	197,773	82,370	115,403	70,011
Orthophoto data	3,500	1,785	1,715	2,450
Satellite data	103,221	12,656	90,565	21,002
Acquisition costs	257,477	124,902	132,575	82,880
Goodwill	86,943	17,387	69,556	78,249
Rights to contracts	10,001	1,000	9,001	—
	\$3,752,965	\$759,430	\$2,993,535	\$1,325,261



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

8. Long-term debt:

	1996	1995
9.875% Mortgage payable in monthly installments of \$698, due May 1, 1996	\$78,300	\$-
Prime plus 2% conditional sales contract, payable in monthly installments of \$8,548 including interest, secured by a lien on a 1993 Caterpillar 148 motor grader (carrying value \$305,150)	237,752	-
Prime plus 1.5% demand loan, payable in monthly installments of \$13,889 plus interest, secured by a general assignment of accounts receivable and a \$1,000,000 demand debenture over the Corporation's equipment	430,555	-
11.60% Conditional sales contract, payable in monthly installments of \$6,635 including interest, secured by a lien on a 1991 Caterpillar loader and a 1991 Caterpillar compactor (carrying value \$268,005)	162,289	-
Prime plus 2% demand loan, payable in monthly installments of \$2,433 including interest	-	95,059
Prime plus 2% demand loan, payable in monthly installments of \$3,096 including interest	-	58,540
Gwich'in Business Development Fund 6% loan payable in monthly installments of \$811, including interest, due December 31, 1997	-	26,667
	908,896	180,266
Current portion of long-term debt	391,918	61,071
	\$516,978	\$119,195

Long-term debt is repayable as follows:

1996	\$391,918
1997	329,220
1998	187,758

Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

9. 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, 1996, the Council has received \$28,239,846 including interest at 9.12%.

Future settlement proceeds consists of the following:

	1996	1995
Future settlement proceeds principal	\$69,190,104	\$69,190,104
Accrued interest	6,484,593	8,477,200
	75,674,697	77,667,304
Current portion of future settlement proceeds	4,443,299	1,992,607
	\$71,231,398	\$75,674,697

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

	Principal	Interest	Total
April 22, 1996	\$4,093,497	\$6,358,204	\$10,451,701
April 22, 1997	4,466,824	5,984,877	10,451,701
April 22, 1998	4,874,198	5,577,503	10,451,701
April 22, 1999	5,318,725	5,132,976	10,451,701
April 22, 2000 and all subsequent years	50,963,905	20,107,641	71,071,546
	\$69,717,149	\$43,161,201	\$112,878,350

(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.



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

9. Comprehensive land claims agreement, continued:

(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 a 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 a first charge against future settlement claims.

Claims loan agreement consists of the following:

	1996	1995
Claims loan agreement principal	\$8,145,171	\$8,145,172
Accrued interest	1,143,999	1,521,255
	9,289,170	9,666,427
Current portion of claims loan agreement	639,203	377,257
	\$8,649,967	\$9,289,170

Scheduled repayments, including interest, are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
April 22, 1996	\$605,181	\$527,684	\$1,132,865
April 22, 1997	641,492	491,373	1,132,865
April 22, 1998	679,981	452,884	1,132,865
April 22, 1999	720,780	412,085	1,132,865
April 22, 2000 and all subsequent years	6,147,303	1,556,184	7,703,487
	\$8,794,737	\$3,440,210	\$12,234,947

10. Income taxes:

The Council's subsidiaries have losses carried forward for income tax purposes of \$592,547 available to reduce taxable income in future years up to 2002. In addition, the Council's subsidiaries have investments for which the tax values exceed the recorded net book value by \$346,900. The potential benefit of these losses have not been reflected in the financial statements.



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1996

11. Trust assets and liabilities:

The Gwich'in Tribal Council administers the following trusts on behalf of their beneficiaries. Transactions within the trusts during the current year are summarized below. They have been excluded from the consolidated financial statements.

	March 31, 1995	Contributions	March 31, 1996
Gwich'in Trust	\$1	\$-	\$1
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust	-	1,450,000	1,450,000
	\$1	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,001

12. Changes in non-cash operating working capital:

	1996	1995
Accounts receivable	\$(378,855)	\$(1,495,402)
Inventory	(31,285)	(67,406)
Property inventory held for resale	(1,185,991)	-
Land inventory held for resale	(992,318)	-
Work-in-progress	49,737	(49,737)
Unbilled costs	-	294,848
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(133,113)	(9,878)
Accounts payable	356,182	467,751
Deferred revenue	103,991	(162,668)
Minority interest	16,002	-
	\$(2,195,650)	\$(1,022,492)

13. Comparative figures:

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.





Mary Kay at Francis' camp on the Rat River in August, 1995.



George Robert and William Nerysoo on Stony Creek in the 1970s.



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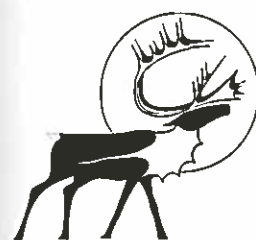
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Chief Julius, Abraham Francis, Johnny Kay and William Vittrekwa were important leaders of the Gwich'in earlier this century.
This photo was taken about 1930



"Well, I didn't shoot *that* duck" explains Peter Vittrekwa to officer John A. Snowshoe.

Photo: Ernest Vittrekwa



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Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute Board members Catherine Mitchell (Inuvik) and Mary Kendi (Aklavik) at their meeting in April, 1996.



Nap and Annie Norbert in Tsiigehtchic.

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Alfred Francis cutting-up a charr at Rat river in August of 1995.



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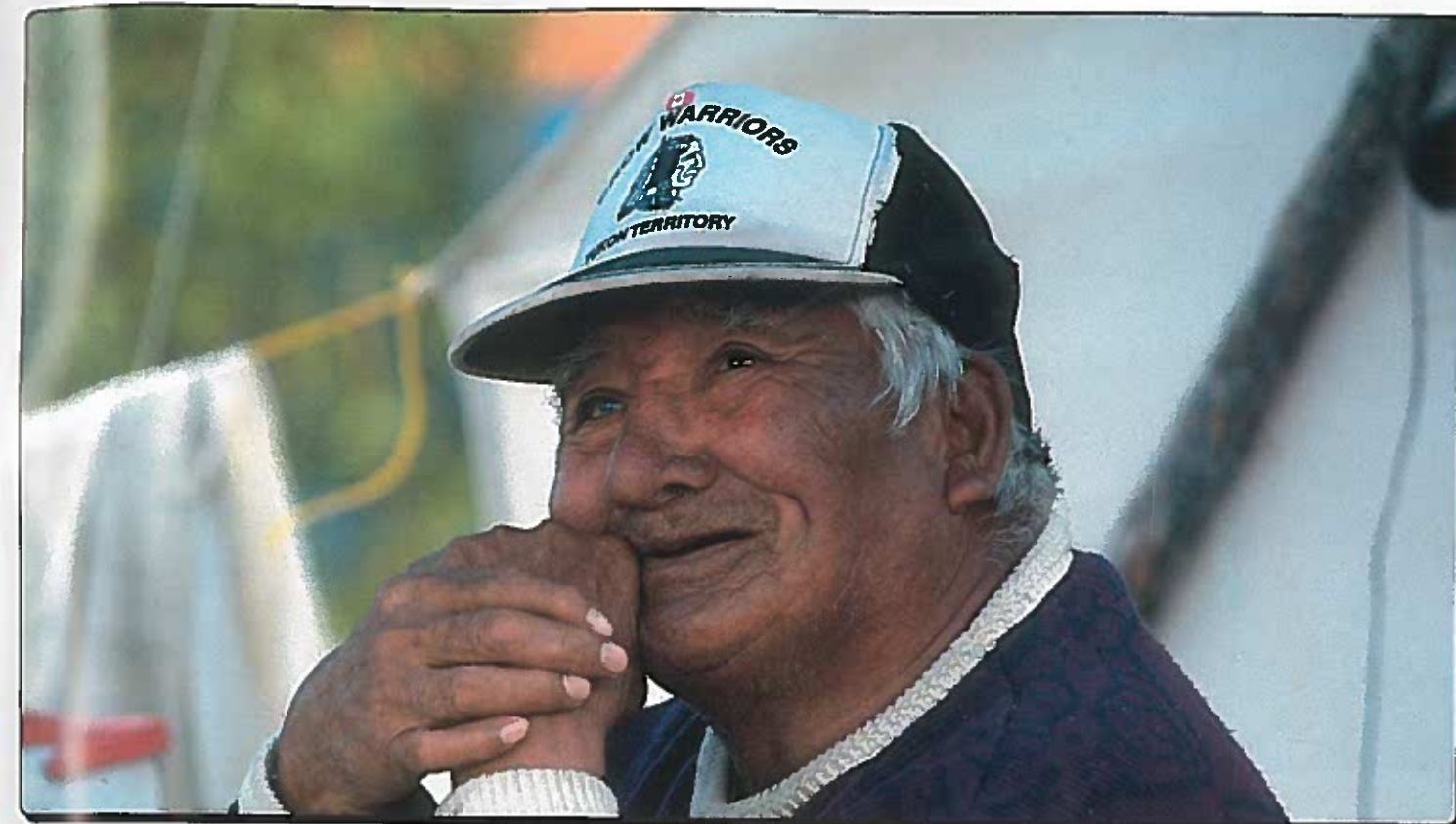
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Andre Hyacinthe at the Martin House ethnoarcheological camp on the Arctic Red River.

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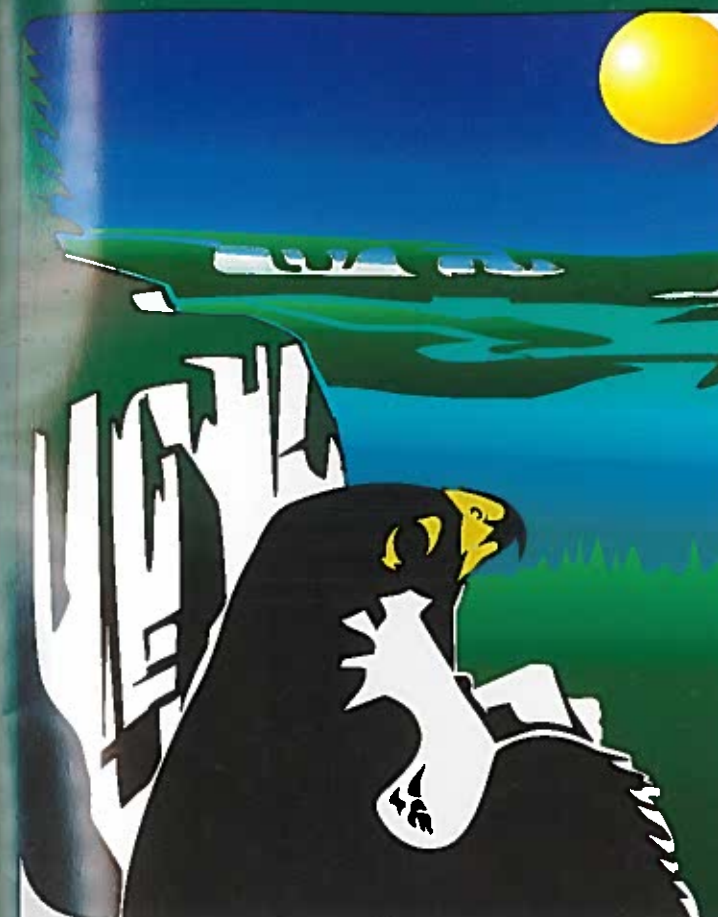
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Aklavik as seen by satellite image (above) and aerial photography (below).

