

Gwich'in Tribal Council

# Dedication

The 1997/98 Annual Report of the Gwich'in Tribal Council is dedicated to Chief Johnny D. Charlie for his commitment, dedication and years of service to the people of the Gwich'in Nation.



Johnny D. Charlie was born on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1930, to Alfred and Alice Tetlich at Johnson's Creek in the Yukon Territory. Johnny had one brother and one sister. John A. Tetlich, who was married to Bella (nee Robert) and Joanne, who was married to Ben Firth. Sometime around 1933, Alfred and Alice Tetlich moved to Fort McPherson where Johnny met and later married Jane Bonnetplume on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1949. They have eleven children; Johnny, Lorna, Alfred, Alice, Annie, Elizabeth, Joanne, Jane, Andrew, William and Michael. They also raised one grandson, Paul.

Johnny hunted and trapped in the 1950's before he started working for Imperial Oil in the 1960's.

Johnny's brother, John A. Tetlich, was the Chief of the Tetlit Gwich'in from 1960 until 1970. Johnny became a Band Councillor in 1960 and served in this capacity until 1975, when he became the Chief, a position he held for ten years until July of 1985. Johnny, along with leaders such as Freddie Greenland of Aklavik, established the Mackenzie Delta Tribal Council (now the Gwich'in Tribal Council) in 1983.

Johnny served for many years as the Gwich'in representative on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB). The PCMB have established the Johnny D. Charlie Scholarship for his many years of service and knowledge that he brought to the Board.

Johnny was present when the Dene Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was initialled in Yellowknife on April 9<sup>th</sup> 1990. He was also present with his wife Jane when the Gwich'in made their dramatic and historic move towards the realization of a Gwich'in Agreement by walking out of the Joint Dene Metis' Assembly that was held on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1990, in Dettah.

Johnny was in Ottawa with the Gwich'in leadership on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1991, when the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was initialled, and he participated in the signing of the Gwich'in Agreement on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1992, in Fort McPherson.

Johnny was the Church Warden for St. Matthew's Anglican Church for many years and volunteered in assisting the community in arranging funerals, baptisms, weddings and confirmations in the Church. He provided assistance and help to those families that had lost loved ones by arranging the details of the funeral which otherwise would have been difficult for the family to do.

Johnny had extensive knowledge of the traditional trails between Old Crow and Fort McPherson and in recent years has led a number of young people over these trails to re-establish ties with the Vuntut Gwitchin.

Over the years, Johnny has served as mentor and advisor to the Gwich'in leadership and the youth.

Johnny is a powerful speaker and over the years he has made many friends up and down the Mackenzie Valley, in the Yukon Territory, in Nunavut, in Alaska and across Canada.

Johnny's leadership is demonstrated by the fact that the Tetlit Gwich'in still consider him to be a Chief and continue to rely on him for direction, advice and leadership.

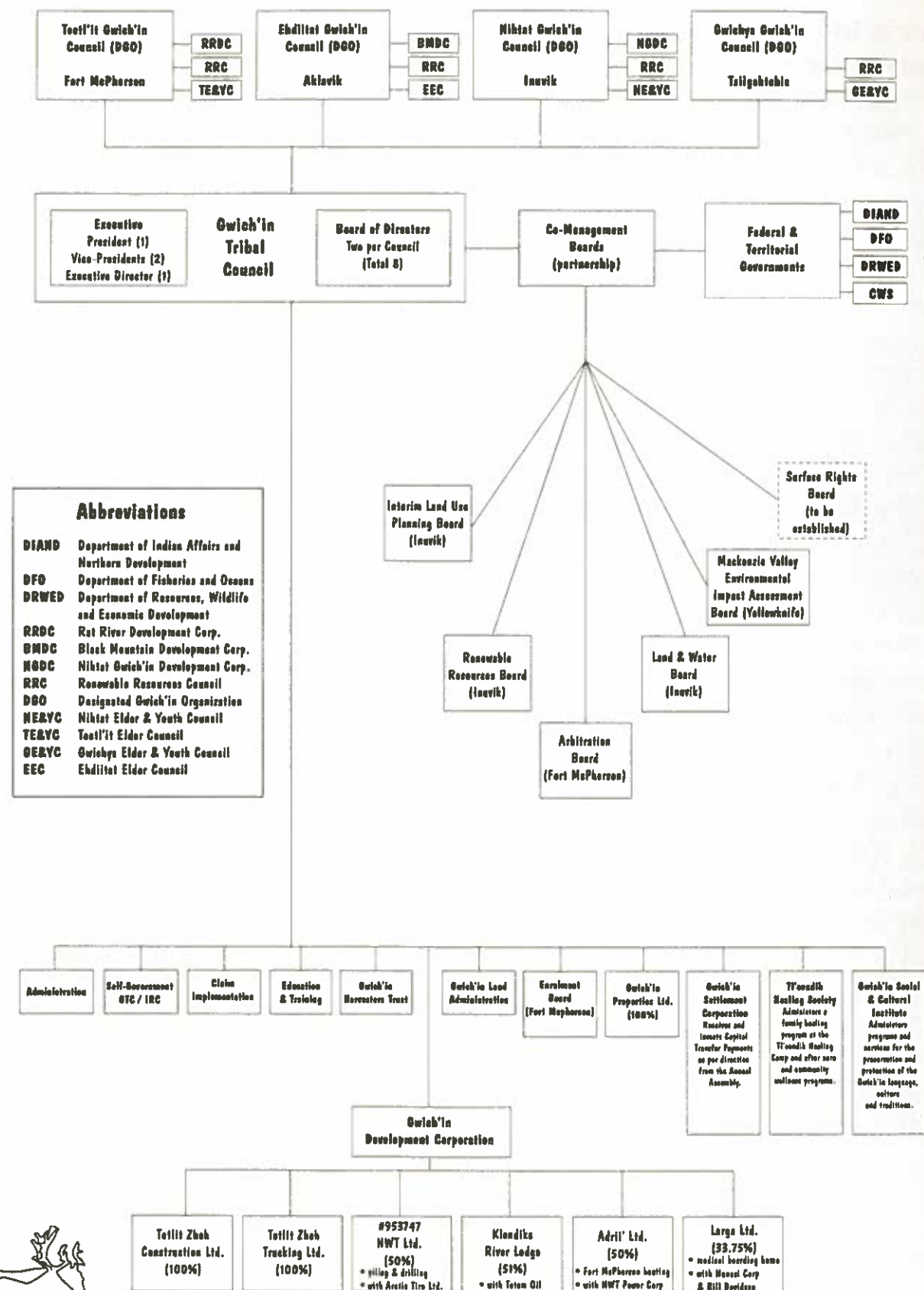
The Gwich'in would like to pay tribute to Johnny, and to his wife Jane, for their kindness, dedication and commitment to the people of the Gwich'in Nation and to all people.

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# The Gwich'in Tribal Council—1998



## President's Report

Richard Nerysoo

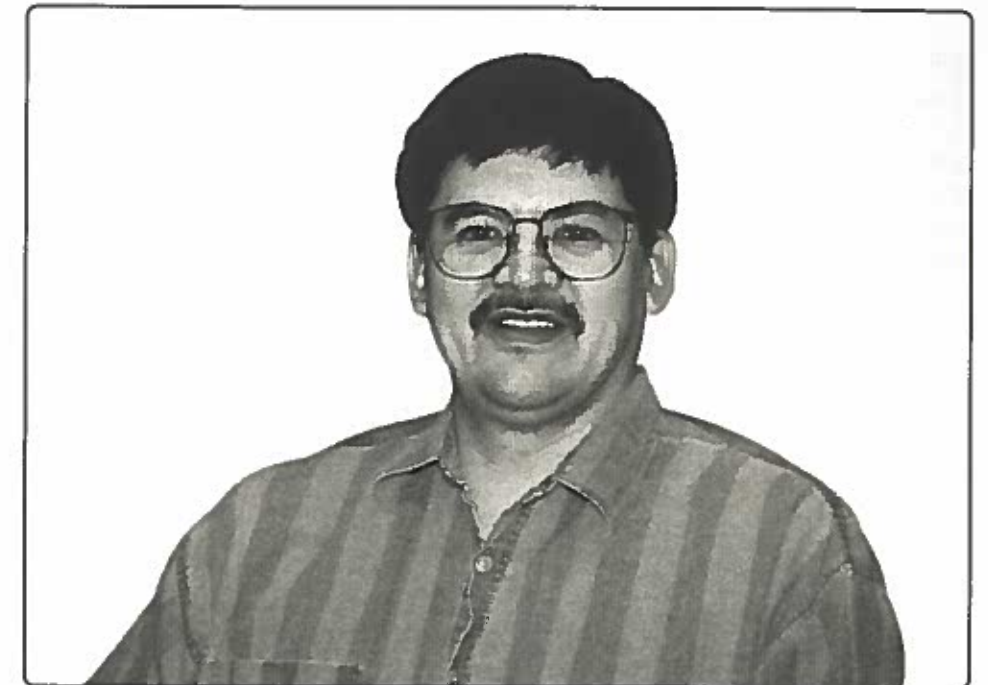
Sha Gwich'in Kut

I would like to begin this year's message by thanking the communities for their continued support and constant encouragement to pursue the agenda for change. When the Executive undertook our agenda approximately two years ago, we were aware that change would be difficult to accept. This is particularly true when we have had to make hard choices and change the way we make decisions that are in the long term interest of the Beneficiary.

We have all had to evaluate the decision making processes that were and are in place with a view to improving them for the Beneficiaries that we represent. I know that many of the Beneficiaries are happy with the way we continue to change the Gwich'in Tribal Council so that it better responds to the concerns of all Beneficiaries and not just a few. My personal view is that we have embarked on a goal of opening up the organization to all Beneficiaries and I recognize that a large majority believe in this approach.

This does not mean that this direction is without critics, nor should we be set on not listening to constructive ideas to improve the decision making process so that it reflects the interests of all Beneficiaries. When we reflect on this basic principle and goal, the Gwich'in Tribal Council will have improved this process significantly.

As leaders we must concern ourselves with the ongoing need to make decisions that are open and transparent; in other words easy for people to see and understand. This requires the Gwich'in Tribal Council to put in place policies that guide our decisions and provide a safety net for all Beneficiaries so decisions are fair and responsible. This ensures that we do not continue to crisis manage or make decisions that are in the interest of a few. We will all be faced



President, Richard Nerysoo

with criticism that a decision is not being made immediately, however I believe that most of the Gwich'in Beneficiaries support the need to make prudent and responsible decisions.

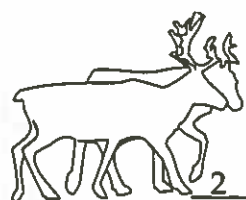
I have had the opportunity to travel to most communities and to speak to Beneficiaries outside the Settlement Region, and many support the restrictions and access to the Land Claim Compensation monies. Many of the comments we have received continue to support the basic principle that the compensation dollars which we received in the Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement should be protected for future generations. Many of the beneficiaries have reviewed the principle of the Financial By-law and have expressed their full support for it.

As President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, I support the priority of developing the Council so that it can continue to fulfill its mandate to properly represent the Gwich'in. This requires support from the leaders to create positions and develop an administrative structure that will reflect our obligations and

commitments as agreed to in the Gwich'in Final Agreement. I would ask that the communities strive to support the development of the Gwich'in Tribal Council in this initiative.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council's role with the Gwich'in Development Corporation has been an issue identified at the last Assembly. I personally support the direction given to us by the Assemblies which directed us to reduce the political interference of the Gwich'in Tribal Council in the area of business.

As such I have placed my trust in and accepted that Robert Alexie Jr. as President and Willard Hagen as Chair will and should accept complete responsibility for the financial well-being and economic viability of the Gwich'in Development Corporation. This means that they must be responsible for the successes and failures of the Gwich'in Development Corporation and the subsidiaries of the Corporation. In the area of Land Claim Implementa-



# President's Report

tion, we will always put forward the Gwich'in Tribal Council's issues and concerns. We have submitted our arguments which reflect the Council's needs to ensure the continued and successful implementation of the Gwich'in Final Agreement.

The Government of Canada has agreed to establish a working group to address the matter of proper implementation of the economic obligations of government to the Gwich'in Tribal Council. I believe this process will make it possible to develop the necessary guidelines and include all aspects of economic development. It can foster a more proactive approach to implementing broader economic measures that will better meet the general intentions and expectations of the Gwich'in.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council has begun discussions with Grand River Resources on the possibility of some oil and gas exploration happening within the Gwich'in Settlement Region. We will ensure complete application of all requirements within the Gwich'in Final Agreement in any activity that may take place. We will continue to consult with Tsiigehtchic and involve the Gwich'in Leadership in the negotiation process.

I can advise all Gwich'in that other resource companies are beginning to call and can indicate that all initial consultations will be with the affected community. It should be understood by all that any benefits agreements that may be reached will reflect the collective rights as contained in the Gwich'in Final Agreement.

As the President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, I strongly support the ideals of fairness and equality. We have imple-

mented a new Human Resource Policy that allows for all jobs to be advertised. This ensures that all qualified Gwich'in Beneficiaries, no matter where they live, can apply for a job within the Gwich'in Tribal Council. This policy is intended to reduce the political nature of jobs and give certainty of employment to those who work for the Council.

I can report to all Gwich'in Participants or Beneficiaries that our financial house is in order and we will be reporting a positive financial statement. I'm proud of this and I know that when we report and you all receive the financial information you will note that your money has been in good hands and we have managed your money with greatest of care.

On other issues, I hope that we can receive your support for continued growth within Gwich'in Tribal Council so that we can continue to accept greater responsibility for Gwich'in Programs and Services. This support would not mean taking away community responsibility or authority, it would simply mean that we support the continued growth of the Gwich'in government.

As Gwich'in we realize that we live in a community much larger than the Gwich'in Settlement Area and we have a responsibility for ensuring that we take every opportunity to represent the interests of the Gwich'in wherever necessary. As Gwich'in Nation leaders and with direction from the Gwich'in Gathering in Fort Yukon, the Gwich'in Tribal Council has taken on the responsibility to complete the application for permanent participant status on the Arctic Council. This is a very important forum for dealing with Canada and seven other countries on environmental and

economic policy for the circumpolar community.

On another matter of importance, the Gwich'in leadership of the Gwich'in Nation has agreed to work together on the issue of protecting, preserving and developing the Gwich'in language. We have agreed to establish a panel of experts in the Gwich'in language which will present recommendations that will enhance the Gwich'in language to the Gwich'in Gathering scheduled for Aklavik in the year 2000.

As you can see we have taken on the additional responsibility of protecting the long term interests of the Gwich'in Nation in its entirety. This must continue to be our goal and we must always be part of a leadership that sees the issues in the broadest view, especially when they are in the long term interest of the Gwich'in.

In conclusion, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have supported me. I look forward to my continued working relationship with you. I want to close with special thanks to Trina, Allen, Laska and of course most recently Christopher Broderick for being so generous in their support. They have always kept me aware of whom I really work for and given me all the reasons why I should continue to serve all the people and to move forward for the betterment of all beneficiaries.

Mussi Cho !

# Vice President's Report

Dolly Carmichael

Over the past year I have worked with boards and other agencies to enhance the Gwich'in capacity to implement training programs and access funding for a variety of initiatives at the regional and community levels. Most of my time has been spent working on education, training, and child care initiatives, providing support and assistance to the Education Committee and helping the communities to access funding.

## Education and Child Care

Executive responsibilities included supervision of staff, advising the Education Committee on policy and program delivery, assisting with proposals to Gwich'in funding agencies, and assisting communities with development of proposals to external funding sources.

Other tasks included updating staff and communities about new funding sources and program changes; participating in community consultations; preparing position papers and reports on education, training, and child care initiatives; participating in professional development initiatives; helping students to access funding; ensuring letters, certificates and gifts are prepared for graduates; and when possible participating in graduation ceremonies.

I participated in a variety of committee and working group meetings on education throughout the year. Among these were the Gwich'in Education and Training Committee; the Regional Education Committee; Regional Bilateral Agreement meetings; Dene Nation for Child Care funding meetings; and Healthy Child Initiatives meetings.



Vice President, Dolly Carmichael

## Forestry

As the Gwich'in Tribal Council representative on forestry issues I attend the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board Forestry Working Group meetings to update them on program funding and national issues relating to forestry, and to help them access funding for our region. Also, I attend meetings of the First Nation Forestry Program to promote our region and ensure that we receive a fair share of funding; I represent the five Dene regions as the NWT aboriginal representative on the National Aboriginal Forestry Association; and review information on other initiatives and programs that we can access. In addition to the above, I keep informed about happenings at the national level that may effect our region.

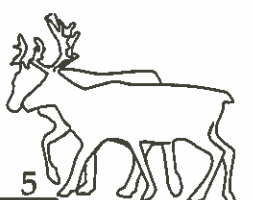
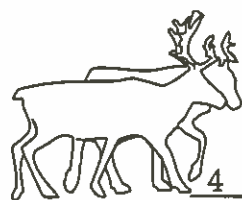
## Gwich'in Tribal Council

I continue to represent the Gwich'in Tribal Council on the Gwich'in Enrollment Board, Gwich'in Territorial Park Committee, and

**Gwich'in Harvesters Program.** General duties also include attending other meetings, dealing with day to day issues as they arise, and performing general administration duties as required due to lack of staff in some areas.

I acknowledge and recognize the importance of the advice, guidance, and support I received throughout the years from Gwich'in beneficiaries. It has been a very interesting, challenging and rewarding experience working for my people over the past few years.

Mussi Cho



# Vice President's Report

James Wilson

This is my second term as Vice President. Thank you for the support and confidence you have given me to continue this work. This report to the membership will highlight progress we have made on a number of items which have been assigned to me.

## Gwich'in Properties Ltd. (GPL)

As the executive responsible for GPL it is my responsibility to ensure that all real estate is leased out, that it is maintained in good condition and the company operates on a profitable basis. I am happy to report that we have been successful in this endeavour. This year GPL also purchased housing units from the GNWT, including two six-plexes and a number of single family units in Fort McPherson and Aklavik. A renovation program is currently in place.

As directed by the AGM, a trust fund has been established to support our first objective; the training and education of our membership. We are currently restructuring GPL so that income generated will support our education and training initiatives. We expect GPL will provide \$225,000 to the Gwich'in Education Training Social and Cultural Fund this year. We have also established a mentorship program.

## Aklavik Assistance Program

During the year, the leadership in Aklavik approached the GTC for assistance in the management of the Band, the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and Black Mountain Development Corporation. A community workshop was held in Aklavik during the fall of 1997 and many positive recommendations were made.

I have visited Aklavik a number of times during the year and have seen positive



Vice President, James Wilson

changes as a result of the community workshop and input from beneficiaries. Staff training programs are now in place. Most organizations now have been restored to financial viability. I look forward to working with Aklavik during the next year.

## Tl'oondih Healing Society

In April of 1998 a strategic workshop was held in Fort McPherson to deal with a number of issues relating to THS including mandate, objectives, program design, and the role and composition of the board of directors. The workshop, which consisted of community representatives and government representatives, was very productive.

A report and action plan were presented to the GTC for approval. The GTC has approved plans to renew the mission of the Society. We are now in the process of advertising for new board members. The new board of directors will then proceed to implement recommendations supported by the workshop.

## Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI)

Since 1992 GSCI has carried out traditional knowledge and cultural research with elders and youth in our communities and on the land. They continue

to record information about our place names, oral history, trails and traditional land use, traditional uses of plants and trees. They also produce the Gwich'in dictionary. Gwich'in language plays a major role in this work as considerable time is taken to properly record the Gwich'in names in all our projects. We offer cultural and educational programs such as Gwich'in language classes and an annual Gwich'in science camp in various locations. GSCI works in partnership with the Gwich'in language Centre in Fort McPherson, as well as all Gwich'in co-management boards.

Our 1998/1999 projects include:

Teetl'it Gwich'in Place Names Project  
Peel River Archaeology Project  
Ehdiitat Gwich'in Place Names Project  
Gwich'in Dictionary  
Gwich'in Ethnobotany Project  
Tsiigehtchic Genealogy Project  
Gwich'in Literacy Classes  
Gwich'in Science Camp

A number of smaller initiatives are also complete. The GTC has adopted a Human Resources Manual to improve our management efficiency to deliver efficient programs and services. I am looking forward to the upcoming AGM to see what new and challenging initiatives the members have for us!

# Gwich'in Education and Training

by Elisabeth Cayen

The past year has been extremely busy. In order to meet the education and training needs of Gwich'in beneficiaries more effectively many changes were implemented.

## Education and Training Committee

In the past each education and training program was given direction by a different committee. This year, a permanent Education and Training Committee was established. It was decided that having one committee gave members a better view of the whole education and training picture.

Decisions regarding applications are made by this committee. The Committee meets on an "as-needed" basis, about four times per year. This committee works hard and is truly committed to education and training.

## Staff

The Committee has long acknowledged the need for a training position within this department. By accessing funding under the Regional Bilateral Agreement, the Department increased its staff through the addition of the Education and Training Coordinator trainee in early January. Sharon Snowshoe is filling this position and it is anticipated that she will assume the position of full time permanent Education and Training Coordinator within one to two years.

As you know, the present Education and Training Coordinator is relocating to Ontario. It is expected that a new Coordinator will be hired before the position is vacant so that a smooth transition can be made.

## Programs

The Education and Training Coordinator is responsible for the administration of the various education, training and child care programs that are offered by the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Funding of \$1.5 million will be available this year for the following programs:



Sarah, Jonathan, Liz and Greg Cayen with David Krutko

## Regional Bilateral Agreement (RBA)

The RBA is the successor to the Pathways to Success Program of Human Resources Development Canada. In negotiating this agreement we were able to attain a great deal of latitude in the programs that are eligible for sponsorship. It was felt that any program that can be of benefit to a beneficiary in making them self-sufficient and employed should receive consideration.

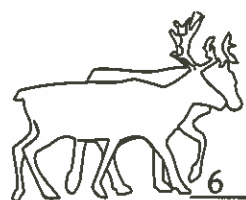
Some of the initiatives that were funded under this agreement during the past year were training positions, Aurora College programs, the Mining and Gas/Oil Introductory Training Program, Welfare to Work Conference, counselor training, accounting training for Gwich'in employees and tutor assistance for students. Thirty-eight students received assistance for tuition and book expenses that were not covered the GNWT's Student Financial Assistance Program. As well, funding was accessed by the Bands for employment officers in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic.

Under this agreement just over \$900,000 will be at our disposal this year. This is the last year of the Regional Bilateral Agreement and it is anticipated that next year a five year agreement will be negotiated with Human Resources Development Canada.

## Education and Training Implementation Fund

This fund is used for programs that relate directly to implementation of the Land Claim. For the coming year, this fund will finance three training positions related to the Land Claim. They are described below. Approximately \$144,000 remains in this fund.

**Education and Training Trust Fund**  
This fund was created pursuant to the direction of the 1997 Annual Assembly. The Education and Training Trust Fund will receive approximately \$300,000 in the 1998-1999 fiscal year. This fund will be used to provide scholarships and bursaries, described below. Additionally, training initiatives not eligible for funding under the Regional Bilateral Agreement or the Implementation Fund can be funded through this source.



# Gwich'in Education and Training

by Elisabeth Cayen

## Gwich'in Child Care Program

The Gwich'in Child Care Program was established as a result of negotiations between the Dene Nation and Human Resources Development Canada. Over the past year, we subsidized child care expenses for 26 students who have a total of 35 young children. As well, each community was allocated monies for early childhood programs. The following programs (141 child care spaces) were established or enhanced with cultural components: Aklavik Preschool, Fort McPherson Preschool, Inuvik Preschool, Inuvik Day Care and Tsiigehtchic Day Care.

The importance of traditional parenting skills has also been recognized and therefore two such programs were funded under the Gwich'in Child Care Program. In Fort McPherson, a speech therapy program was established to provide speech therapy for children with speech development problems. In Inuvik, the Gwich'in Child Care Program helped fund a child care advocate at Inuvik Transition House.

As a result of partnerships between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and other funding agencies, over \$600,000 was spent on early childhood interventions. For the coming year, we will be able to access approximately \$175,000 under the terms of this initiative.

## Scholarship and Bursary Program

Historically, the Tribal Council has provided scholarships to students who are enrolled in post-secondary institutions on a full time basis in a full year program and who have achieved a minimum academic standard. This program did not recognize the efforts of students who attended shorter programs or who did not meet the minimum academic standard. Therefore, the Scholarships Program has been modified into two programs: Scholarships and Bursaries.

Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 are available to students who achieve an av-

erage of 85% during the year. Eligibility for this scholarship is determined at the end of the academic year. Bursaries are available to students who attend any education and training institution for a period of at least two months. The amount of the bursary depends on the length of the program, the year of study, academic standing and course load. Bursaries can be applied for at any time during the period of study.

Applications and proposals for all education, training and child care programs are received and reviewed on a continual basis. Application forms are available in each of the Band Offices/Designated Gwich'in Organization offices as well as the Gwich'in Tribal Council offices in Inuvik and Fort McPherson.

## New Initiatives

Early in the year the Education and Training Coordinator conducted a needs assessment within the various Gwich'in organizations to help identify some of the training needs among Gwich'in employees. Four areas were identified as high priorities:

- life skills
- career counseling
- computer training
- academic upgrading

The Committee will be working to provide training in these areas for Gwich'in organizations in the coming year. These basic skills are essential to building successful careers for individuals and building a strong Gwich'in organization. If you have a training idea for your organization, submit a proposal.

Another need that has been recognized is the need for training positions within the organization. The ultimate goal is to have all Gwich'in organizations staffed with well-educated and trained Gwich'in beneficiaries. To date, the following training positions have been approved by the Education and Training Committee:

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (Implementation Fund)  
-Renewable Resource Trainee  
Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board (Implementation Fund)  
-Land Administrator/Land Use Planner Trainee



Liz and Greg Cayen

Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd.

- Heavy Equipment Mechanic Trainee
- Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute
- Administrative Assistant Trainee
- Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Implementation Coordinator Trainee (Implementation Fund)
- Education and Training Coordinator Trainee
- Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council
- Management/Bookkeeper Trainee
- Secretary-Receptionist Trainee
- Nihtat Gwich'in Council
- Bookkeeper Trainee

Additional positions, including an Executive Director Trainee, are under review and will hopefully become available in the near future. This will depend on a number of factors including the availability of supervisory staff and the availability of suitable trainees.

On a personal note, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Gwich'in Nation for allowing me to serve you as your Education and Training Coordinator. The five years that our family has spent here have been rich in rewards. We have been proud to be part of the Gwich'in Nation. Continue to be "Proud to be Gwich'in" and "Stand in Unity"—this is where your strength lies.

## Members:

Melba Mitchell, Aklavik  
Gladys Alexie, Fort McPherson  
Robert Charlie, Inuvik  
Donna Neyando-Andre, Tsiigehtchic  
Dolly Carmichael (ex officio), Vice-President, Gwich'in Tribal Council  
Liz Cayen (ex officio), Education and Training Coordinator  
Sharon Snowshoe (ex officio), Education and Training Coordinator Trainee

# Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program

Dolly Carmichael, Interim Chairperson

This is the second year that the Gwich'in Harvesters Trust has funded the Gwich'in Harvesters Program. Funding of \$130,616.66 was provided for supplies, equipment, gas and oil for individual harvesters.

In response to concerns raised by harvesters, renewable resource councils, and other beneficiaries the Board reviewed the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program Policy and made the following changes before starting the Spring and Summer Program:

- Reduced the maximum amount allocated per harvester. Now full time harvesters can apply for assistance up to \$2,000 per season. part time harvesters can apply for assistance up to \$1,000 per season.

- Reduced the assistance for specific categories (small equipment repair, snowmobile parts and repairs, outboard motor parts and repairs, boat repair and maintenance, basic camp equipment, basic harvesting equipment, food and supplies, fuel, flight, teaching and training, capital equipment)

- Deadlines for application for the Spring & Summer Program was fixed at March 21, 1997 and funds were to be distributed by April 4, 1997. Approval would depend on the availability of funds.

- Deadline for application for the Fall & Winter Program was fixed at September 5, 1997 and funds were to be distributed by September 19, 1997. Approval would depend on the availability of funds.

The Board reviewed the investments of the Gwich'in Harvesters Trust and passed a motion to invest the \$1.4 million that was received from the GTC and GNWT in May 1997. Before the Spring and Summer Program, Aklavik representative Eddie McLeod resigned and Aklavik appointed Joe Benoit.



Dog mushing in Tsiigehtchic

Tsiigehtchic representative James Andre moved to McPherson and Tsiigehtchic appointed James Cardinal. Before the Fall and Winter Program, James Andre replaced Fort McPherson's representative Richard Wilson on an interim basis.

## Spring and Summer Program

The new policy and applications were sent to the renewable resource councils (RRCs) for distribution. The deadline for applications was March 21, 1997. The Board met on March 22 1997 and reviewed all applications. Late applications were approved by conference call as required.

The Board reviewed 77 applications; 65 of the applications were approved, and 12 applications were not approved. Total of all approved applications was \$73,750 for the Spring and Summer Program.

Late applications were accepted due to changes in staff in the Tsiigehtchic RRC office, and the change of directors in Aklavik and Tsiigehtchic. This resulted in an over expenditure of \$9,500 in Harvesters Assistance Contributions. The board met only once, resulting in reduced expenditures in honoraria and transportation. Professional fees also will be lower than anticipated. The 1997 budget was revised to reflect the change in allocations.

## Fall and Winter Program

The Gwich'in Tribal Council hired Roger Allen as their Renewable Resource Project Officer in August. One of his duties was to administer the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program. All application forms, program files and documentation were forwarded to Roger to review before the Fall and Winter Program began. Application forms were available in all communities by August 10, 1997. Deadline for application was September 5, 1997.

The Board of Trustees met in Aklavik on September 6, 1997 to review the applications. The Fort McPherson representative did not bring his community's applications. The RRC in Fort McPherson faxed 26 applications to Aklavik. The remaining 51 applications were to be sent to Inuvik and the Board would meet again to complete their review. In summary, 76 applications were reviewed, 39 applicants approved, 34 deferred, 1 declined. Total of all approved applications was \$61,281.66 for the Fall and Winter Program.



# Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program



Back: William Nerysoo, Abraham Alexie, Chief Johnny Kay, Clement Koe, Jim Vittrekwa, Alfred Tetlich, Harriet Stewart, Liz Colin with Mary Colin and Mary Jane Mosses

Front: John Modeste, Charles Koe, Clayton Colin, Enna Colin, Marilyn Colin

The Board of trustees met again in Inuvik on September 8, 1997 to review the 52 applications from Fort McPherson and all deferred applications. The board reviewed 126 applications, 64 of the applications were approved, 62 applications were not approved. Total of all approved applications was amended to \$77,589.04 for the Fall & Winter Program.

Roger Allen resigned in October. All records were transferred back to Inuvik, all office administration duties had to be redone and recorded. Some invoices were missing and we did not receive duplicate copies from suppliers until after the year end audit was complete. These invoices amounted to approximately \$5,700, which will be recorded as expenditures to harvesters in 1998 program. Responsibility for program administration has been transferred back to the chairperson until the GTC hires another Regional Renewable Resource Project Officer.

## Combined Programs-Harvesters Contributions

Community	Total Approved	Total Spent	Variance
Aklavik	\$ 29,066.00	\$ 21,761.76	\$ 7,304.24
Inuvik	\$ 17,050.00	\$ 15,032.92	\$ 2,017.08
Fort McPherson	\$ 67,763.04	\$ 65,580.93	\$ 2,182.11
Tsiigehtchic	\$ 37,260.95	\$ 28,241.05	\$ 9,019.90
Totals	\$151,139.99	\$130,616.66	\$20,523.33

## Conclusion

Some of the concerns regarding this program have been dealt with in the revised policy. Further revisions will be based on comments and suggestions from the RRCs, harvesters and other beneficiaries as information is obtained through an independent review.

This program has been very successful, and with future revisions to the policy every year, we will continue working toward meeting the needs of the harvesters.

The Board would like to thank everyone for their comments and suggestions about improving the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program.

We look forward to another successful program in 1998. Those who wish to review the complete report of the Harvester's Assistance Program please contact the GTC office at 777-4869.



Red Fox on the Dempster Highway



# Gwich'in Land Administration

Joe Benoit

Gwich'in Land Administration (GLA) is developed from the Gwich'in Final Agreement (GFA) section 18.1.6. "Subject to the provisions of the agreement and legislation, the Gwich'in shall manage and control the use of Gwich'in lands, including: (a) the development and administration of land management programs and policies; and (b) the charging of rents or other fees for the use and occupation of Gwich'in lands."

Gwich'in Land Administration has spent a lot of time this year on many small issues. Generally issues are dealt with on a case by case basis. One project on private land for gravel at Willow Creek was completed successfully. There were few requests for recreational access to Gwich'in land. This year there were a total of four notices which were received by this office.

The development of the Land Management and Control Rules are a priority for Gwich'in Land Administration. A two day workshop was held in Fort McPherson on April 7 and 8, 1998. Those who attended the workshop commented that it was a success. It is also hoped that the approval for the Gwich'in Land Management Control Rules will be given at the Annual Assembly.

GLA is also a member of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Working Group. The group is in the process of developing the process of dealing with applications for development in the western Northwest Territories. The preparation also includes how the Board will operate, should they be faced with conducting environmental impact reviews.

Gwich'in Land Administration is also involved with the Gwich'in Territorial Park Committee. Here the committee is the prime mover for the development of the park at Campbell Lake.



Jim Vittrekwa and Johnny Charlie



Thunderstorm over the Mackenzie River near Little Chicago



# Enrolment Board

Lucy Kay, Enrolment Coordinator



Back Row: Shirley Kyikavichik, Lillian Wright Front Row: Joyce Stewart & daughter, Martha Stewart, Annie Ray Stewart, Ruby Edwards, Ruth Stewart & Sarah Jerome

The Gwich'in Enrolment Board (GEB) was established in March 1993, pursuant to Chapter 4 of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, with the objective of enrolling persons who are eligible to be enrolled in the Gwich'in claim.

As of April 1, 1997, funding for the Gwich'in Enrolment Board was transferred from the Government of Canada to the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The implementation period for the Board has ceased and its operations have become the responsibility of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The Gwich'in Enrolment Board now employs a half-time coordinator whose duties are to assist individuals who wish to apply for enrolment; and to issue Gwich'in identification cards and certificates of enrolment. The Board also publishes a yearly Enrolment Registry which lists all eligible beneficiaries. As of March 30, 1998, there are a total of 2,189 beneficiaries enrolled in the Gwich'in Final Agreement. The Gwich'in Enrolment Board consists

of one representative from each of the four Gwich'in communities and one representative from the Gwich'in Tribal Council. At present, the Enrolment Board is represented by the following members: Barb Crawford (Chair) and Robert Alexie Sr., Fort McPherson; Frank Edwards, Aklavik; Carol Blake, Tsiigehtchic; and Dolly Carmichael, Gwich'in Tribal Council.

The Gwich'in Enrolment Board members would like to thank Sharon Snowshoe for her hard work over the past few years. Sharon was instrumental in com-

piling and securing the information for the document entitled; *Jijuu, who are my Grandparents and Where did They Come From?* Sharon interviewed elders and organized workshops which created a lot of interest and awareness for this project. The publication is a result of the wishes of elders who participated in a survey which was carried out in 1997. Without the dedication, hard work and commitment of the elders, past and present, with whom Sharon worked, this project would not have been possible.

*Jijuu, who are my Grandparents and Where did They Come From?* Is a genealogical history of the Gwich'in people. This document helps in determining who is eligible to enroll under the Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement. The layout portion of this project was funded by Community Literacy Projects Fund, Government of the NWT, and the Enrolment Board will be responsible for printing the booklet.

Mussi Cho!

Board:  
Barb Crawford, chair  
Robert Alexie Sr.  
Frank Edwards  
Carol Blake  
Dolly Carmichael



Annie and Nap Norbert

# Gwich'in Self-Government

Bob Simpson, Stephanie Irlbacher

The Beaufort Delta Self-Government office is located in the Chief Jim Koe Zheh in Inuvik and is responsible for negotiating a Self-Government Agreement with the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories on behalf of the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit.

Matters for negotiations are outlined in chapter 5 and the Self-Government Framework Agreement of the Gwich'in Agreement.

To date, negotiations have included the following sub-agreements:

- Governing Institutions, including Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Governments, Community and Regional Governments
- Implementation, Review and Amendments
- Culture, Language, and Heritage
- Education and Training
- Health
- Social Services and Child Welfare
- Adoption, Guardianship and Trusteeship
- Administration of Justice

Once a sub-agreement is complete it will go through a review stage by legal counsel and program and service experts. Further negotiations may be required prior to the negotiators initialing the sub-agreement and recommending it to their respective leadership.

Other matters yet to be negotiated include:

- Economic Development
- Housing
- Local Government Infrastructure and Services
- Raising of Revenues
- Constitutional Protection

Once all sub-agreements have been agreed to and concluded, an Agreement in Principle will be ready for the



Gwich'in Tribal Council Board meeting

Gwich'in and Inuvialuit for consideration. The deadline for completion is scheduled for September 1999.

The Self-Government offices have material on the negotiations and consultations including newsletters, summaries of negotiations and regular articles in the Drum.

In addition, we have done presentations to organizations in all communities and at the Beaufort/Delta leaders' conference.

The office is currently working on a communications program which will include developing information in Gwich'in and Inuvialuktun.

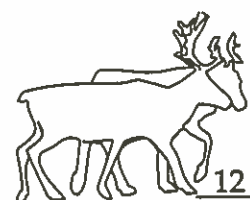
The Fieldwork and Survey Program was conducted between October 1997 and February 1998.

Self-Government Staff designed and delivered a two-week course on Self-Government and Communications to provide Fieldworkers with comprehensive information and skill enhancement in preparation for conducting the Fieldwork and Survey Program.

The Fieldworkers designed the surveys and were key resource people for Self-Government Workshops.

The surveys were designed to ask what people thought about the negotiations process and the sub-agreements, particularly relating to the new types of governments being considered.

This information was used to help shape the negotiators' instructions. Results of the Fieldwork and Survey Program were returned to communities in the form of a written report and as posters providing survey results. A Self-Government Workshop was held in each Beaufort Delta community between January and March 1998, which provided facts about Self-Government and what was being negotiated. Approximately 150 people participated and brainstormed about their community's issues and spent time talking about what should be in the Self-Government Agreement.



# Gwich'in Self-Government

What people said will guide negotiators in their work and will be used to start a Community Development Planning and Community Constitution Development Process in preparation for self-government.

During the workshops, all communities said education and training was one of their top priorities and emphasized Gwich'in and Inuvialuit language and culture must be used in all areas of self-government.

The Self-Government office received funding from Canada's Aboriginal Justice Directorate to do planning work with justice committees in preparation for taking on more responsibilities under self-government.

A workshop was held in February 1998 with members of all Beaufort Delta Community justice committees and those working in the justice system to talk about what should be negotiated.

All the consultation work has been focused on two objectives: providing negotiators with directions on what communities want under Self-Government; and assisting communities in planning for Self-Government.

The results were used to build a mandate document that contains detailed instructions for negotiators about self-government agreements. The Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Inuvialuit Regional Corporation are expected to review and approve a mandate document by the summer of 1998. The mandate will be reviewed and updated if necessary as negotiations progress.

The main focus of the Self-Government office is to conduct its work in a way that contributes to community development.

- We are working with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to pool our resources directed towards community development planning.
- We are working with Justice Committees to establish long-term goals and objectives to prepare committees for responsibilities under Self-Government.
- We intend to focus Fieldworkers' efforts to research Gwich'in and Inuvialuit traditional ways of governing by talking with Elders and reviewing written information so communities have the opportunity to base new governments on Gwich'in and Inuvialuit values and traditions.

In addition, we have identified funding to support training positions and courses for beneficiaries to take on key roles in research, negotiation, community development, and implementation.

Charlie Furlong has been working with the Gwich'in chiefs to ensure that treaty rights and obligations will continue. A work plan is being developed to address the issue. Self-government negotiators have also raised treaty related issues at the negotiations table. Canada has committed to addressing some of the issues within self-government negotiations.

**Inherent Right Working Group**  
The Aboriginal Summit established a process with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to discuss issues which are not clear in the federal policy on self-government for the Western Territory. These issues include:

Flexibility in Structures of Government  
Extent of Jurisdiction, Paramountcy, and Comparability

## Financing Aboriginal Governments Constitutional Protection

The Working Group continues to meet and will recommend possible solutions to the above issues. The recommendations may be submitted to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Government of the Northwest Territory's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs for their consideration.

**Constitutional Development**  
After the first round of community meetings the Constitutional Development Working Group revisited the models of a new territorial level of government.

The Working Group found that the public requested more information on the two approaches to self-government. The first is a Government-to-Government approach where aboriginal governments would negotiate program and service agreements with the territorial and federal governments. The second is a Combined Government approach where aboriginal and public governments form a partnership and deliver programs and services together for all residents of the new territories.

The Working Group will be travelling to the communities during the summer. Once the views of residents have been gathered the Working Group shall complete a constitutional package for further review at a conference.

For more information about self-government activities contact one of the following:  
Charlie Furlong, Gwich'in Negotiator (867) 978-2340  
Bob Simpson, Chief Negotiator (867) 777-4210  
Stephanie Irlbacher, Senior Analyst (867) 777-4210

# Gwich'in Land Claim Implementation

Shannon Ward

In 1997, the Gwich'in Tribal Council identified the need to create a new senior position in the organization to deal specifically with the management of land claim implementation. The position was created due to the increased responsibilities of the Gwich'in Tribal Council in the areas of self-government negotiations and the additional workload which would be created as a result of the Five-year Review of the Gwich'in Agreement.

Bob Simpson, the former manager of implementation, left to devote his time to his position as the Chief Negotiator for the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit at the Beaufort Delta Self-Government Office in Inuvik. I was hired in May of 1997 to manage land claim implementation activities on behalf of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and to help coordinate the Five-year Review of the Gwich'in Implementation Plan.

The last year has been a very busy one for the Gwich'in Tribal Council in the area of land claim implementation. Some of the activities we were involved in include:

The Five-year Review of implementation activities under the Agreement and Implementation Plan  
Standing Committee hearings for Bill C-6, the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act  
Negotiations on the Yukon Development Assessment Process (YDAP)  
Development of the Gwich'in Land Management and Control Rules and policy framework for the Gwich'in Land Administration

**Five-Year Review of the Gwich'in Agreement and Implementation Plan**  
In 1997-1998 the Implementation Committee began a general review of the Gwich'in Implementation Plan. The Five-Year Review Working Group developed Terms of Reference which in-



James Ross, Richard Nerysoo and Amos Francis at Midway Lake

cluded the following objectives: determine the current status of land claim obligations; identify larger implementation issues; and to determine the overall adequacy of implementation funding.

During the summer of 1997, all Boards established under the Gwich'in Agreement reviewed the status of their obligations and presented the results to the Implementation Committee. The Committee then developed a consolidated database outlining five years of activities that assisted the group in identifying a list of outstanding issues for discussion.

During the fall, the Committee was able to resolve some issues and provide recommendations to government and other implementation bodies for future years.

Other issues, such as the adequacy of implementation funding, were not resolved and remain under review by the Committee. A final report will be provided to the Minister and the public by the summer of 1998.

## Standing Committee for Bill C-6; The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

In December 1997, Bill C-6 went before the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and the Gwich'in Tribal Council was asked to speak in support of the Bill. Richard Nerysoo gave a speech before the Committee in support of the Act that was very well received.

The Bill is now through the Senate and will be passed by fall of 1998. Bill C-6, entitled the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, will give effect to the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board, the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.



# Gwich'in Land Claim Implementation



Back: Richard Koe, George Vittrekwa, Richard Francis, Joe Vittrekwa, James Neyando and Charlie Blake  
Middle: Willie Blake, James B. Firth, Eunice Charlie, Beatrice Blake, Betty Vittrekwa and Ruth Heron  
Front: Robert Charlie, Bernice Francis, Betty Firth and Mavis Stewart

## Negotiations on the Yukon Development Assessment Process (YDAP)

The Gwich'in Tribal Council has begun discussions with the Canada on the Yukon Development Assessment Process, which will establish a system of environmental assessment and review to replace the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) process in the Yukon pursuant to the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement. Our involvement in the negotiations ensures that the Teet'it Gwich'in will be involved in the decision making process relating to any projects occurring or have an effect on Teet'it Gwich'in Yukon lands.

During the year, Richard Nerysoo, Shannon Ward and Abe Wilson travelled to Whitehorse and Yellowknife to meet with

the negotiators on the Yukon Development Assessment Process and other issues, including the development of interim measures for the protection of the primary and secondary use areas until YDAP is legislated. Work on the Yukon Development Assessment Process will continue in 1998/1999.

Gwich'in Land Management and Control Rules and Procedures and Policy Framework for the Gwich'in Land Administration In October 1997, Alec McEwen of CESO Volunteer Services, came to the Gwich'in Settlement Area to work on the fifth draft of the Gwich'in Land Management and Control Rules, which will provide the Gwich'in Land Administration with a set of guidelines for the proper management of Gwich'in lands.

The Rules are in final draft form and have been reviewed by technical staff and the

communities. It is hoped that the Assembly will formalize the rules in August 1998.

On April 7 - 8, 1998, the Gwich'in Tribal Council held a Land Management Workshop in Fort McPherson to develop a policy framework for the management of Gwich'in lands and to provide participants with a chance to review and provide further comment on the rules.

Participants revisited the lands selection process to help them develop a mandate and guiding principles for the management of Gwich'in lands. Participants also discussed the need to develop a proper decision-making framework for land and resource issues within the GTC. Workshop proceedings were released to all participants in May-June 1998.

# Gwich'in Teaching and Learning Centre

Betty Vittrekwa

Since the opening back in September, working at the Gwich'in Teaching and Learning Centre are: myself as coordinator, in place of Eleanor Mitchell who took a year's leave; Bertha Francis, our translator/transcriber; and Lucy Wilson as data processor.

One of the things we do here is develop material for the schools in our region: the Chief Julius School, Chief Paul Nitichie School, Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, Samuel Hearne Secondary School and Moose Kerr School. We also assist students who are away at college and university and the schools with instructional resources and material development. They all give our office top marks for the information we provide them. A lot of them will be sending their projects back for our files.

I coordinated the On the Land Program, where people from the community took at least six students on a learning experience. This program went very well. The people who took students out were: Effie and Joe (Boat Landing), Peter and Robert James (Basook Creek), Thomas and Anita (Dry River), Joe and Dorothy (Eight Miles), Elizabeth Colin (Eight Miles), Barbara and Glen (Carl Bet's), Robert Alexie (Trail River) and Neil and Hugh (Mouth of the Peel). Also, Perry Jr. and Abe Snowshoe took three students on a one day hunting trip. Some of the students were very happy they had the chance to go out and most of them enjoyed it so much they went a second time.

We also provide Gwich'in language lessons, books and tapes to interested people as far away as Indian and Northern Affairs in Ottawa. We are finding that a lot of the middle-aged people are becoming more interested in learning the language. We are so glad that they are inter-

ested. We have a signing out system for videos, which is going along very well. People that borrow the videos enjoy them. We get as many videos as possible.

Combined with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, we have had two workshops so far, one in November, 1997 and the other in March, 1998. We concentrated on literacy, giving the Gwich'in Language Teachers more practice in reading, writing and listening. We had participants from Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson. The teachers find these workshops help them a lot. We have also had elders from the communities involved in these workshops for their assistance in speaking and pronouncing words properly and for encouragement.

We have a Friday Afternoon Radio Program, where we provide information to the community about what's happening in our office. Before Friday comes, Bertha goes out and interviews an elder who is willing to tell a short story and get paid a small fee for this story. She brings it back to the office, listens to it and transcribes it on paper. After it is done she hands it over to Lucy, who enters it into the computer. The people that are living out on the land give us good feedback, telling us that they really enjoy listening to the stories, so during the last few months we have been collecting crazy stories to make the people happy out there and to enjoy our program more.

Some of the new projects we have been working on are:

- Muskrat Unit
- Beaver Unit
- Traditional Medicine Book
- Gwich'in Recipe Book
- Gwich'in Weather Terminology
- Gwich'in Crossword Puzzle

We are in the process of putting these books together and hope to have them sent off to the schools in our region soon.

—Juu dagwahchii gwizraih k'agwaadhat nikhwah vili' tsa't akik'anoothi



Brennan Vittrekwa



Gwich'in Youth



Elaine Alexie



Bonnie Ross



Mary Rose Vittrekwa



# Gwich'in Settlement Corporation

The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation (GSC) was established in 1992 as a "settlement corporation" pursuant to chapter 7 of the Gwich'in Agreement and is the investment arm of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

The object of the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation is to receive and invest the majority of "capital transfer payments" (financial compensation) received by the Gwich'in pursuant to chapter 8 of the Gwich'in Agreement so it can be invested and used by future generations of Gwich'in for "permitted activities" as described in Schedule I to chapter 11 of the Gwich'in Agreement.

From 1992 to 1994 the funds were invested in short-term government backed securities (T-Bills, Banker's Acceptance Notes, etc.) which provided a good rate of return with little to no risk.

In 1995, the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation appointed CIBC Wood-Gundy (a subsidiary of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce) to invest the funds in Canadian bonds which provided a better rate of return with little to no risk.

In 1996, the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation appointed TAL Investment Counsel Ltd. (a subsidiary of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce) to invest the funds in a mixture of bonds and equities (stocks) which provided still a better rate of return with little risk.

In 1996, the Annual Assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council passed By-Law #18, which directs the Gwich'in Tribal Council to transfer \$65 million to the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation between April 22, 1997, and April 22, 2007, and to retain an investment advisor to review and monitor the performance of the funds.

By-Law #18 further directs the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation to develop an Investment Policy and to establish an Investment Committee which shall be responsible to ensure that the funds achieve the highest possible rate of return within the provisions of the Investment Policy.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council have appointed the firm of Towers Perrin as it's investment advisor.

The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation have assumed the role of the Investment Committee and have appointed the firm of TAL Investment Counsel Ltd. as it's investment firm.

The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation have also appointed the firm of CIBC Mellon as its fund custodian.

The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation have approved the following investment criteria:



Margaret Donovan and Greg Cayen

- to invest not more than 60% of the funds in cash and bonds with direction to maintain not less than 5% in cash
- to invest not more than 40% of the funds in Canadian and American equities with direction to maintain at least 20% in Canadian equities.

As of April 30, 1997, the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation managed the following portfolio:

Holdings	Market Value	Annual Income
Cash	\$1,560,668	\$46,788
Canadian Bonds	\$17,196,097	\$1,299,841
Canadian Equities	\$5,671,544	\$104,445
U.S. Equities	\$2,136,169	\$33,096
Subtotal	\$26,564,478	\$1,484,170
Total		\$28,048,648

On April 22, 1998, the Gwich'in Tribal Council transferred \$7 million to the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation and as of April 30, 1998, the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation managed the following portfolio:

Holdings	Market Value	Annual Income
Cash	\$4,921,867	\$242,375
Canadian Bonds	\$17,405,875	\$1,165,456
Canadian Equities	\$9,271,904	\$122,157
U.S. Equities	\$6,819,462	\$84,753
Subtotal	\$38,419,108	\$1,614,741
Total		\$40,033,849

The rate of return on the portfolio from January 1, 1997, to December 31, 1997, was 12.05%.

The rate of return on the portfolio from January 1, 1998, to April 30, 1998, was 7.87%.

In the coming years, the Gwich'in Tribal Council will make the following transfers to the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation:

April 22, 1999 \$7 million • April 22, 2000 \$7 million • April 22, 2001 \$7 million  
April 22, 2002 \$7 million • April 22, 2003 \$7 million • April 22, 2004 \$7 million  
April 22, 2005 \$5 million • April 22, 2006 \$3 million • April 22, 2004 \$1 million

Up to April 22, 2007, any interest income earned by the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation is exempt from income tax providing it meets all the requirements relative to settlement corporations as contained in chapter 11 of the Gwich'in Agreement and to public charitable foundations as contained in the Income Tax Act.

In order to maintain its tax exempt status the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation must annually spend a minimum amount referred to as the "disbursement quota" on permitted activities as contained in schedule I to chapter 11 of the Gwich'in Agreement. For the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation, the disbursement quota is described as 4.5% of the capital.

It has been said time and time again by many people over the years that the land and the money is for the future generations of Gwich'in yet to come. It is the object of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation to ensure this becomes a reality.



# Gwich'in Development Corporation

by Robert A. Alexie

The Gwich'in Development Corporation (GDC) is the economic arm of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and is located in the Chief Jim Koe Zheh in Inuvik.

The object of the Development Corporation is to invest in viable businesses and to provide training, employment and business opportunities to participants (beneficiaries) of the Gwich'in Agreement.

The Gwich'in Development Corporation has the following interests:

Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd.	100%
Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd.	100%
Klondike River Lodge Ltd.	51%
Larga Ltd.	37.5%
#953747 NWT Ltd.	50%
Aadrii' Ltd.	50%
GDC Air Leasing Ltd.	50%
Nihjaa Properties Ltd.	25%

Tetlit Zheh Construction Ltd. (TZCL) was formerly owned by the Fort McPherson Inc. Band Ltd. The company was regionalized in 1992, and has completed many projects over the years. Construction has been down in the region and we have had to downsize and be more aggressive. We continue to do small projects that keep our offices open and some of our people employed on a seasonal basis.

In 1997, TZCL generated over \$5 million in revenues. Don Grettum is our Operations Manager and Steve Hagen is our Project Administrator.

Tetlit Zheh Trucking Ltd. (TZTL) was also owned by the Fort McPherson Inc. Band Ltd. and was regionalized in 1992. Tetlit Zheh Trucking is one of the major employers in the region and has provided full-time and seasonal employment to many people over the past five years.



Tetlit Zheh Trucking working on Midway Hill

In 1997, TZTL generated over \$3.4 million in revenues primarily from the reconstruction and maintenance of the Dempster Highway. Dean Smith is the General Manager of TZTL and Ina Arey is our Junior Accountant. Wayne Eliuk is our Journeyman Mechanic and Richard Niditchi is our Apprentice Mechanic.

Klondike River Lodge Ltd. is located at Mile 0 of the Dempster Highway at the junction of the Dempster and Klondike Highways and was acquired by GDC in 1994. It consists of a motel, restaurant, RV Park, gas station, garage, gift shop, lounge and propane sales.

This company is now owned by GDC (51%) and Delta Western (49%).

Klondike River Lodge Ltd. continues to generate revenues in excess of \$1.4 million annually, however administration and high operating costs required some attention and this has been done. Harry Holmquist is the General Manager.

Larga Ltd. owns Medical Boarding Homes in Edmonton and Winnipeg and is owned by Bill Davidson (25%), Nunasi Corporation (37.5%) and the

GDC (37.5%). GDC and Nunasi Corporation acquired interest in Larga in 1994 and have since recouped their original investment. This company continues to perform well.

In 1997, Larga Ltd. generated revenues of almost \$1 million. Bill Davidson is the General Manager.

#953747 NWT Ltd. is a numbered company located in Inuvik and is owned by GDC and Arctic Tire Ltd. This company owns two trucks and specializes in drilling and piling work. In 1997, #953747 generated \$102,000 in revenues. This company has done well in the past and carries no overhead when not in operation.

Aadrii' Ltd. owns and operates the District Heating System in Fort McPherson and is equally owned by GDC and the NWT Power Corporation.

The District Heating System recycles waste heat from the diesel generators at the local power plant and redistributes it to the Fort McPherson Tent and Can-



# Gwich'in Development Corporation

vas Shop, the Annie G. Robert Center, the Teetl'it Gwich'in Recreation Complex, the Fort McPherson Water Treatment Plant, the Fort McPherson Swimming Pool and Chief Julius School. In 1997, Aadrii' Ltd. generated about \$70,000 in revenues, and 1998 will be the first full year of operation. Other communities in the NWT have expressed an interest in this project.

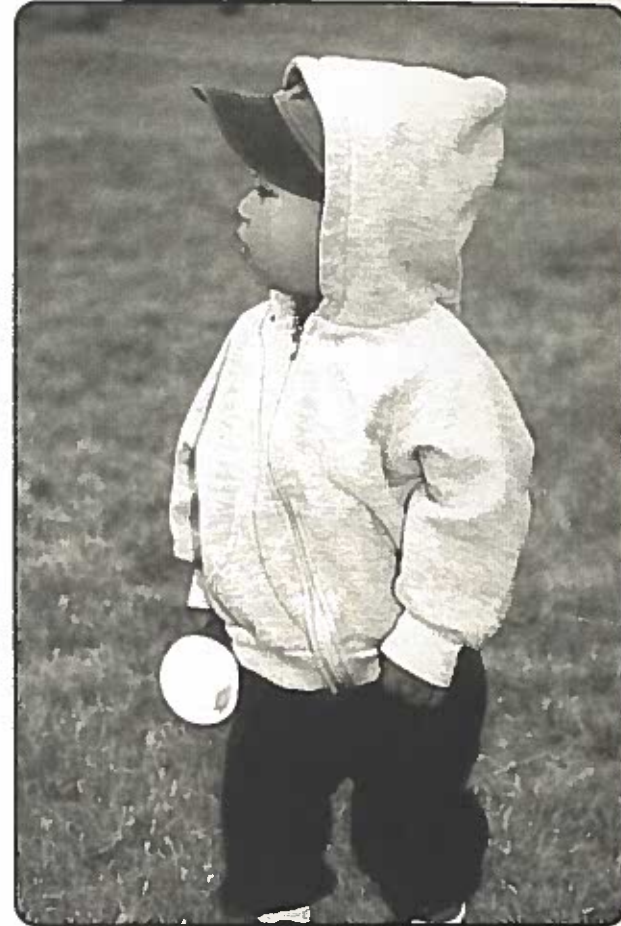
GDC Air Leasing Ltd. (GDCALL) was established on September 4, 1997, and is equally owned by the GDC and Beaudel Air Ltd. GDCALL borrowed \$750,000 from the Aurora Fund and purchased a Pilatus Porter and has leased this aircraft to Beaudel Air Ltd.

In 1997, GDCALL generated \$24,000 in revenues in four months. GDCALL leases the aircraft to Beaudel Air for \$8,000 per month and pays \$7,500 per month to the Aurora Fund.

Nihjaa Properties Ltd. (NPL) was owned by Northern Management and Development Ltd. (NMDL), Tundra Enterprises Ltd. (TEL) and the Nihtat Gwich'in Development Corporation (NGDC). GDC acquired a 25% interest in NPL in 1998. NPL owns Nihjaa Apartments in Inuvik and is in the process of acquiring another apartment building in Inuvik.

## Board of Directors:

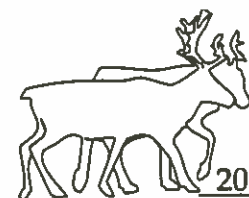
Willard Hagen, Chair  
Robert A. Alexie, President  
Richard Nerysoo, Director  
James B. Firth, Director  
Morris Blake, Director  
William Koe, Director  
Eugene Pascal, Director  
Ernest D. Firth, Director  
Roger Allen, Director  
Greg Cayen, Chief Financial Officer



Tristan Peters



Greg & Liz Cayen and the Gwich'in



# Tl'oondih Healing Society

Robert A. Alexie, Hazel Nerysoo

The Tl'oondih Healing Society was founded in 1994, a year after construction on the healing camp had started.

In 1996 the Tl'oondih Healing Society received \$1 million for the Aboriginal Strategic Initiatives Program which was spread out over a three year period and will end in August 1999. This funding is used by the Healing Society to provide services to the communities and those who wish to start leading a healthier way of life.

In 1997, the Tl'oondih Healing Society was approved for funding under the Aboriginal Head Start Program which is used for programs involving pre-school children. This program is held out of the Sarah Simon Hall, which is attached to the St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Fort McPherson. Kathy Nerysoo, Julie Ann Koe, Emily Robert and Rachel Reindeer have been working with this program which provides a learning environment for young children and their parents. Kathy and Julie Ann went for some training in Vancouver in

March 1998.

The Tl'oondih Healing Society also accessed funding from Brighter Futures to help set up a youth program in the Chief Johnny Kay Youth Center. Bella Snowshoe worked on this program from October until recently.

In November 1995, Esther Dobbs and Jim Smarch held a Traditional Parenting Workshop in Fort McPherson. They also held a Self-Esteem-Building Workshop in early February which was well attended by the public.

Fort McPherson also received funding for a Community Mental Health Worker which is being filled by Hazel Nerysoo on a temporary basis. Sharon Snowshoe has been with us since the fall and she and Hazel have accessed funds for Parenting Workshops, Renovations of the Child Care Center, Gwich'in Language classes, and Speech & Language Therapy.

A "Leadership Skills Development Program" was held March 9-27, 1998. The first two weeks of the program were held at Tl'oondih and the last week was held



Jennifer Chalmers

in the community. A total of 27 people attended this program and 25 of them completed it. Richard Dolen facilitated this program and was assisted by Edna Alexie and Hazel Nerysoo.

A Strategic Planning Workshop was held in Fort McPherson and was well attended. James Ross and Brian Penny facilitated this workshop and the final report was given to the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board and the Tl'oondih Healing Society Board.

A Grieving Workshop was held May 8-10, 1998 in Fort McPherson. A total of 13 people attended. Norman Yakelaya and Hazel Nerysoo facilitated this.

A Traditional Healer, Bertha Blondin, was in Fort McPherson from May 4-13. A total of 71 people took part in this program which included family counselling, mini parenting workshops in the evenings and individual counselling and healing.

Jennifer Chalmers and her husband Lloyd MacDonald were in for a few weeks in March and April lending a helping hand to our cause and it was good to see them again.

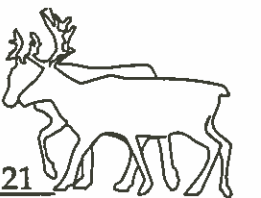
Gloria Francis has been working as our Administration Officer and Olive Itsi has been working as our Program Assistant. Ernest Vitrekwa has been looking after the camp.

The Tl'oondih Healing Society is currently seeking more funding to do more programs at the Tl'oondih Camp. Board:

Robert A. Alexie, Chair  
Barry Greenland  
Mary Teya  
Peter Ross  
Melba Mitchell



Left to Right: Verna Blake, Mary Blake, Edna Alexie, Roberta Alexie and Elaine Alexie



# Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Ingrid Kritsch, Alestine Andre

## Research Projects and Ongoing Programs

### Gwich'in Ethnobotany Project

GSCI and Inuvik Research Centre staff worked with Gwich'in elders to complete the first phase of a project that is documenting Gwich'in knowledge about the traditional uses of plants, trees, roots and berries. Gwich'in elders and youth in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik, and Tsiigehtchic have been interviewed both in the community and on the land. A report and displays of the plants will be finalized and will then sent out to the five schools in the Gwich'in Settlement Area in early September 1998.

**Gwich'in Language Dictionary Project**  
Gwichya Gwich'in and Teetl'it Gwich'in elders, GSCI staff, a linguist (Andre Bourcier) and Gwich'in Language Centre staff have completed the second edition of the Gwich'in noun dictionary which lists 600 of the 3,100 words documented in both the Gwichya Gwich'in and Teetl'it Gwich'in dialects. A computerized version of this dictionary was not possible this year, however this component will be developed in the next phase of the project. The dictionary will be sent to the five schools in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic upon completion.

### Gwich'in Language Classes

Gwich'in language classes were offered in the communities of Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic for three months from September to December 1998. Instruction included basic Gwich'in words and phrases, conversational exercises and practice in writing the Gwich'in language using the standardized Gwich'in writing system as outlined in the 1990 GNWT Dene



Alestine Andre and Ron Cruikshank with students at the Knute Lang Camp

**Standardization Report.** These classes were offered in the evening. The Gwich'in language instructors from each community attended two Gwich'in literacy classes which provided them with instruction and practice in reading, writing, and speaking the Gwich'in language. The Gwich'in literacy classes were held in November 1997 and March 1998.

### Gwich'in Science Camp

The GSCI offered its third annual on-the-land traditional knowledge and western science camp this past year for senior high school students. This year's camp was held at the Knut Lang Camp outside of Aklavik from September 9-17, 1997. Thirteen students from Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic worked with Gwich'in elders and scientists from the disciplines of anthropology, biology and geography who are currently on staff with Gwich'in organizations and co-management boards, and the GNWT. Instruction at the camp consists of a combination of lecture, discussion and practical exercises, with the emphasis placed on hands-on practical exercises. Instruction takes place both in the class-

room and on the land and is designed to promote a better understanding and appreciation of Gwich'in culture, knowledge, the land and its natural and cultural resources. The aim of this experience is also to motivate students to continue their education. Students enrolled in the camp earn two credits towards their high school leaving diploma in two locally developed courses that GSCI completed recently in partnership with staff from the PWNHC. These two courses are called: "Exploring our Heritage, Culture and Traditional Knowledge" and "Land Claims and Co-Management Boards: An Introduction". Next year we are offering the camp either in late August or early September at the Rachel Reindeer Camp outside of Inuvik.

**Teetl'it Gwich'in Place Names Project**  
Traditional Gwich'in place names can tell us much about Gwich'in culture, how people lived, where they travelled and their in-depth knowledge of the land. This year's project, Phase Three, focused on inputting information from our 1996 project and extracting oral history information related to Teetl'it Gwich'in place names from the

# Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Gwich'in Language Centre. The project was carried out by GSCI staff, and research assistants from Fort McPherson in consultation with Teetl'it Gwich'in elders. The information was added to the existing database and a report will be drafted and reviewed with Teetl'it Gwich'in elders.

An eight-day snowmobile trip with elders and youth also took place in early March 1998 along a traditional trail from Fort McPherson to Mayo. The purpose of this trip is to revitalize the use of the trail, to re-establish the connections between the people living in Fort McPherson and Mayo, and to document the trail and the oral history of this area.

### Gwich'in Commemoration Project

*Nahwichoonjik (the Mackenzie River) between Thunder River and Point Separation is of national historic significance due to its prominent position within the Gwichya Gwich'in cultural landscape.*

—Historic Sites and Monuments Board recommendation as approved by the Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, January 1998

At present there are more than 775 National Historic Sites, most of which are in southern Canada. Within the past few years, the Canadian government has recognized that there are a number of gaps in their commemoration, among which are sites commemorating aboriginal people and their history. In January 1998 the Canadian government began to close this gap by officially recognizing a 100 mile stretch of the Mackenzie River (between Thunder River and Point Separation) as a National Historic Site "due to its prominent position within the Gwichya Gwich'in cultural landscape." This designation will assist the community of Tsiigehtchic in developing a framework agreement between the community and Parks Canada. It will also assist in the development of a management plan. This plan will outline the type of development or inter-

pretation that will occur, and how tourist access to the site will be regulated.

### Publication

In late 1997, a paper written by GSCI staff Ingrid Kritsch and Alestine Andre called "Gwich'in Traditional Knowledge and Heritage Studies in the Gwich'in Settlement Area" was published in a book titled *At a Crossroads: Archaeology and First Peoples in Canada*. This paper was one of 20 papers written by aboriginal and non-aboriginal authors and discusses the present status of the relationship between aboriginal people and archaeologists in Canada.

The GSCI paper presents the roles and responsibilities of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and gives an overview of the traditional knowledge and archaeological students carried out in the Gwich'in Settlement Area from 1992 to 1995. Included is a discussion of how the traditional knowledge and archaeological research is being used to meet a number of needs which range from the identification of culturally significant sites for protection of land management purposes, to the development of more culturally relevant teaching materials for local schools.

### New Responsibilities Related to Implementation of the Claim

#### Integrated Resource Management Plan

GSCI continued to work with the Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB) in developing an integrated



Gwich'in grave on the Black Stone River

resource management plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area along with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board, and Gwich'in Lands Administration. The Institute in partnership with the GLWB is beginning to develop the heritage layer of the GIS so that it can advise the GLWB on land and water applications and their impact on heritage resources.

### Self Government: Culture, Language & Heritage Management Sub-Agreement

GSCI continued to advise the Beaufort-Delta Self-Government office on mat-



# Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

ters related to the negotiation of a self-government agreement on Gwich'in culture, language and heritage management. GSCI is a member of the Working Group which consists of representatives from the Beaufort-Delta Self-Government office, GSCI, Inuvialuit Social Development Program, Federal Government and GNWT.

### Traditional Knowledge Policies and Guidelines

A draft paper, policies and guidelines which outline the use, access and ownership issues pertaining to traditional knowledge in the GSA is being developed in collaboration with the Gwich'in Land and Water Board.

### Gwich'in Land Use Plan

The GSCI has provided input (both written and oral) into the Protected Areas Strategy being developed in the GSA.

### Contracts

### Northern Athapaskan and Metis Collections Contract and Publication

There is great interest in the Mackenzie Valley with materials that were collected in earlier times and are now housed throughout the world in museums, archives and private collections. In order to prepare for repatriation requests from the Gwich'in and Sahtu, and potential requests from other Dene groups in the Mackenzie Valley as their land claims are settled, the GNWT developed a two-phase project to determine where Northern Athapaskan and Metis collections were housed outside of the NWT, and a description of these collections (including ethnographic, archaeological and historical objects and records).

GSCI, under the contract to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC), carried out both phases of this project from 1994-1997. In the ini-

tial phase, GSCI identified 160 museums and archives around the world that might have objects and records related to Athapaskan and Metis peoples of the NWT. A survey was then designed and sent out to these 160 institutions asking them if they indeed had such collections and if so, a description of these collections. In the second phase, GSCI compiled the responses to the survey and produced and report. This report was published in December 1997 by the PWNHC, and is now being distributed to the public. This publication will assist government, Athapaskan and Metis organizations in knowing where these collections are for research and repatriation purposes.

### Administration

### Re-organization of Positions within GSCI, Additional Staff and GSCI Policy and Operations Manual

We are in the process of reorganizing staff positions within the Institute and drafting new job descriptions. Effective April 1, 1998, Ingrid Kritsch, the Executive Director since 1993, will assume the position of Research Director, and Alestine Andre, the present cultural director, will assume the position of Executive Director. Ruby Lennie will be the Administrative Assistant Trainee. We are still working towards drafting a GSCI policy and operations manual currently used.

### 1998/1999 Projects

We are currently fund-raising for the following projects: Teetl'it Gwich'in



Students at the Knute Lang Camp

Place Names Project (Phase IV); Peel River Archaeology Project, Ehdiiat Gwich'in Place Names Project; Gwich'in Language Dictionary; Gwich'in Ethnobotany Project; Tsiigehtchic Genealogy Project; Gwich'in Literacy Classes; and Gwich'in Science Camp.

### Board:

James Wilson, Chair  
Mary Kendi  
Catherine Mitchell  
Sarah McLeod-Firth  
Bertha Francis

### Staff:

Ingrid Kritsch, Executive Director  
Alestine Andre, Cultural Director  
Ruby Lennie, Administrative Assistant Trainee

# Teetl'it Gwich'in Band Council

William Koe, Chief

This is my third consecutive year in office and the support has been great for me and my family. Being a chief is not an easy task. During my leadership I indicated I would do the best I could for the community and dedicate my time to the community. I would take this opportunity to thank the people and the councilors for giving their support during my leadership.

Last July I was elected to my second term and we have come a long way since. Program delivery is at its peak and Council receives its funding from Indian Affairs and has been able to work with the existing funds. This funding arrangement is an agreement between the Department and Teetl'it Gwich'in Band (TGB). There is a formula that we have to work with and when we spend over the allocation we have to find money elsewhere. This past year we signed a Financial Transfer Agreement and we are moving toward a new system in how the Teetl'it Gwich'in spends its funding.

Today, the Teetl'it Gwich'in Band has spent in areas of health, education, funerals, donations and other respective duties. Our duties range from the least problem to the biggest problem in the community. We will continue to work for the community and help build a community that is healthy and where everyone is working together.

Some of the programs we deliver in the community are programs we receive or deliver on behalf of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). Each year the Teetl'it Gwich'in Band administers approximately \$500,000 and this funding has to be spent in accordance with funding arrangement we have with DIAND.

### Band Support Services

As per the comprehensive funding arrangement with the Minister of Indian

Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) the TGB receives \$260,983 to ensure the maintenance of administrative and management systems necessary to deliver the services set out in the Financial Transfer Agreement (FTA) to the community members. Also, the TGB is to further ensure the registration of persons as "Indians" within the meaning of the Indian Act and maintenance of the list of persons who are members of the council pursuant to section 10 of the Indian Act. Each year the funding is administered to everything we do in the office on a daily basis.

### Community Economic Development

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Band receives \$82,000 from DIAND for the provision of programs relating to economic development in the community. Programs are delivered by way of channeling funds to various applicants upon approval of their proposals. A policy has been established for the coming year and we will continue to educate the public about the policy.

### Brighter Futures Funding

The TGB presently receives \$182,515 to provide wellness programs and services that empower children and youth, elders, and families to attain good physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. The individual programs and services are funded by the local wellness committee.

### Income Support

Funds for this program come from the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment. The total allocation is determined using monthly



Chief William Koe

costs of wages, applicable costs and administrative expenses; therefore, no set amount is presently in place.

### Fuel Subsidy Program

We took on this contract to provide more employment for the community. We provide wood for the elders each winter and for others that need help during the winter. Last winter we provided 34 cords of wood to elders and others in the community.

### Homemakers Program

This program provides home care to elderly and disabled persons in the community that may need help to shop, take their medication, clean their homes and provide some companionship on an as-needed basis. This is done by a contribution agreement with the Inuvik Regional Health Board.



# Teetl'it Gwich'in Band Council

## Community Employment Officer

Presently, we receive \$36,000 for this position; \$10,000 from GNWT and the remainder from the Education/Pathways Committee of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. As is evident, the purpose of this program is to assist people who are seeking employment and provide information about other areas such as employee benefits.

## Incorporated Band Ltd.

This is a business arm of the Band Council and all the directors on the Board are the same Councillors we have on the Teetl'it Gwich'in Band Council. We have a few contracts in the community, and this company employs about 30 people.

## Numbered Company

This company will be set up to take over small contracts that we have with the Health Board, Income Support and other projects that come up. This will keep the Fort McPherson Band at arm's length from projects other than the properties we hold in the community.

## Committees of Council

After the election we set up a Personnel/Finance Committee and assigned portfolios to each councillor. The councillor portfolios are: Hazel Nerysoo, Social and Cultural; Phillip Blake, Self Government and Constitutional; Eleanor Mitchell, Education, Culture, Employment and Training; Peter J. Kaye, Transboundary Lands and Environmental Issues; Abe Stewart Jr., Housing, Alcohol and Drugs. The chief is ex-officio on all committees.

I would like to thank our Band Manager for his direction during the past two years. I hope this report serves you well; we will continue to work to the best of our ability for the community.



Annie B. Robert



Sheila Vittrekwa



Kenny Koe's dog team



Funeral of Delta Joe



# Fort McPherson Designated Gwich'in Organization

by Abe Wilson, DGO Coordinator

The Fort McPherson Designated Gwich'in Organization (DGO) is now in its first year of its two year mandate; election for new council took place in August 1997. New members include: Wilbert Firth, Billy Wilson, Annie Smith, Ruby Koe, Phillip Blake and Richard Wilson. Billy and Annie have been appointed to the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board.

Over the past year the DGO council have dealt with many issues related to our land claim, and it has been a learning process. The DGO staff and council report back to the beneficiaries in Fort McPherson by way of our monthly newsletter, which we also distribute to beneficiaries outside the Settlement Region. Our local radio station is probably the most effective vehicle for communications purposes.

Some tasks ongoing and completed this past year are:

- Rat River Development Corporation (RRDC) has been set up and is the business arm of the DGO council.
- The caribou river project was conducted by the RRDC and it is likely that RRDC will take on the task again this year.
- The RRDC are in process of purchasing a 6-plex unit in Fort McPherson from Gwich'in Properties.
- Fund raising for the elders is ongoing. This summer, elders will probably go to the Gwich'in Gathering at Fort Yukon/Alaska. A representative from the

Elders Council sits in on DGO regular meetings. The DGO staff work closely with the Elders Council.

- We have yet to set up a youth council here in Fort McPherson. At one time a youth council was formed but it collapsed due to lack of interest from the youth.

- the Yukon Development Assessment Process (YDAP); Abe sits on this committee along with Richard Nerysoo and Shannon Ward, and reports back to the council for feedback. There are many outstanding issues yet to be resolved.

- A meeting with Mayo's Renewable Resource Council this winter went very well. Communications (exchanging information) topped the agenda. We expect to have more meetings in the future. We face similar issues such as traditional protected areas, land use planning, and renewable resource regimes.

- Self government workshops held in Fort McPherson this past winter went fairly well; a lot of questions on self government from young and old participants. More meetings like these are needed. Self-Government is not an easy issue for anyone to understand overnight; it takes time. Our field workers, James Andre, Lucy Kaye and Kristine Firth did a good job working with the public and setting up workshops.

- We are working on a training program with the schools to try and have a course included in next year's semester, which will include: fur handling, trapping

regulations, bylaws, firearm safety, and a practical section which will take place on the land. Hopefully we will have this course in the classes this fall



Jonathan Soloman

- A course on land claims will be taught this fall at Chief Julius School.

- Meeting with Vuntut Gwich'in Council is another concern. The process has been slow due to Vuntut Gwich'in's implementation process. But the commitment is there from both organizations to meet.

The DGO staff thank all those who have helped raise funds for the elders through bingos and raffles. And the support has been there from our community and those outside the Settlement Region who have responded to our newsletter.

Mussi



Cruising the Upper Peel River



# Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council

Mariah Itsi

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council held their elections in October 1997. The next election will take place October 1999. We hold a meeting once a month or as needed, to keep up to date with renewable resource issues.

In January of this year we hosted the Regional Renewable Resource Council meeting. Delegates from all four communities (Inuvik, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson) were in attendance. At this time a lot of different topics were discussed, such as the Caribou River Clean Up Site, training opportunities, trappers workshop, forestry, approved research projects, Land Management Workshop, Yukon Assessment Process Board Update, Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust Board Update, Search and Rescue, Sport Hunting, etc. There were reports and updates from all other councils, boards and other organizations.

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council has been participating in the Rat River Charr Research, Rat River Charr Monitoring, Caribou River Clean Up Site, Vittrekwa River Fish Assessment, Husky Lake Fishing Project, Dempster Highway Monitoring, Forestry Management Plan, Traditional Trails, Gwich'in Harvest Study, Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project and the Delta Science Camp.

We now have a management agreement in place for grizzly bears for the Gwich'in Settlement Area. This will help ensure that there are bears for future generations.

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council has a good working relationship with all other or-

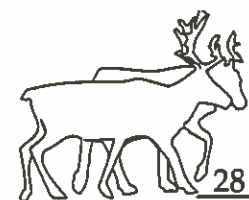


Amanda Itsi

ganizations, councils and boards in the NWT and in the Yukon. In closing we look forward to working together for a healthier environment.

—Mussi Cho

**Councillors:**  
Charlie Snowshoe, President  
James Andre, Vice President  
Billy Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Alice Vittrekwa  
Woody Elias  
P.J. Kaye



# Fort McPherson Elder's Council

Abe Wilson

The Fort McPherson Elder's Council held elections in October, 1997. Since the elections the elders have been very busy. They have regular meetings monthly. The staff of the Fort McPherson Designated Gwich'in Organization handles the administration of the Elder's Council.

Eliza Greenland is the regional coordinator for elders and she has been helping us, bringing our concerns to the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board and keeping us updated. Also she has looked into escort services for the elders when they travel to Yellowknife or Edmonton.

There is an elder abuse workshop planned. Ellen Smith also represents us on the NWT Senior Society in Yellowknife; she brings our concerns to the meetings and keeps us updated. Thank you to Elizabeth Colin who represented the elders on the NWT Senior Society last year.

The elders have been busy fund-raising to make a trip to Fort Yukon, Alaska to attend the Annual Gwich'in Gathering June 22-27, 1998. A lot of our elders have relatives in Alaska, who they hope to meet over there. Another trip is scheduled for July 1998 for the elders who

don't make it to Fort Yukon. All the elders are involved in the fund-raising.

Abe Stewart Sr. is our representative on the Teetl'it Gwich'in Council and Doris Itsi sits on the Designated Gwich'in Organization Council. They both attend meetings and report back to the Elder's Council.

A proposal was written on behalf of the elders to move to Rock River in February of 1998. The move did not happen; there was a hunt for the elders instead by the young men of Fort McPherson.

There were workshops held about grieving, healing and self government. A lot of our elders attended, and we hope to hold more workshops for the elders. A community assembly was also held. The elders are associated with other organizations such as the Women's Wellness Group. There was a trip made in December to visit the Long-term Care patients in Inuvik.

A traditional Gwich'in Gathering will be held in Fort McPherson in August



Ruby and Otto G. Tucker

1998. Elders from the four Gwich'in communities and the youth of Fort McPherson will be involved in this gathering. The Designated Gwich'in Organization will be organizing this. The elders will be showing the youth how to skin caribou, clean fish, make drymeat and other traditional practices of the Gwich'in people.

We are in the process of forming a youth council. All youth who are interested in this council can call the Designated Gwich'in Organization office at (867) 952-2330.

The elders would like to thank the Gwich'in Tribal Council, all the people who helped fund-raise and other boards who helped us throughout the year. Thanks also to all the elders who attended our meetings.

**Councillors:**  
Effie Jane Snowshoe, President  
Doris Itsi, Vice President  
William Neyando  
Rachel Stewart  
Rosie Stewart  
Mary Firth



Wanda Vanelti, Edna Alexie, James Firth, Shirley Wilson and Cheryl Stewart



# Aklavik Indian Band

Eugene Pascal, Chief

This year the Chief and Council have been concentrating on how we fit into the lives of Band members and drafting the rules of how the Band will operate in the future. Some important questions are:

1. What is our role in the daily lives of the members?
2. What are our responsibilities, and how should we manage the core funding and program monies we receive?
3. How can we create one organization for the Band and Gwich'in members of the community? Is this what both groups want?
4. How do we fit into things concerning land claim issues and self government negotiations?

We have been, as a community, discussing the formation of a single government for Aklavik. We feel this one organization will fit into the future self government structure in the Beaufort/Delta.

Last fall, because of our financial situation, all the programs and services that the Band had been providing were transferred to other organizations. During the transfers we realized how much funding the Band contributes of to keep programs and services running. The Band also paid for the completion of the Tourism Centre (\$20,000). We are in the process of trying to recover this amount.

Through the land claim process, the Band has allowed the Gwich'in to select Band lands for ownership by the Gwich'in. Also, Band assets have been transferred to the local Gwich'in Council's Corporation. This includes the Cafe, old band office and lot, and the Chief Andrew Stewart Building.

With the transfer of the programs, services, assets, and the self government negotiations to the Gwich'in, we are working to redefine the role of the Band Council. The Federal Government still has an obligation to the Band (core funding, approval of some programs and services).

I am sure that we are not alone; most likely your community is faced with a similar situation. All of us who live in the Delta face the same problems. For the sake of our children and our future, we have to overcome these obstacles.



Alfred Semple



# Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council

Fanny Greenland

There have been drastic changes since our last report, but due to hard work by Gwich'in Tribal Council staff, the office continues to operate.

I commend the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council for hanging in there during these difficult times. We have shown that we can work together and overcome hardship to continue ahead and work with a new budget to offer programs and services for the community through the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council. Also, we reviewed Black Mountain Development Corporation and set goals and objectives for both organizations.

One of our goals is to develop our youth and elders councils and make them feel part of the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council. Another important goal is to get our beneficiaries involved in and more aware of activities within the Ehdiitat



Ruth Stewart



Julia Edwards

Gwich'in Council.

As newly elected president, I look forward to working together more between our organizations at the Band office, and helping each other to serve our beneficiaries. We encourage all of the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council members to get involved. Remember that with constructive input from all of

you we will be able to meet your expectations.

In Unity,  
Fanny Greenland

Councillors:  
Fanny Greenland, President  
Annie Semple, Vice President  
Sandra Arey, Secretary/Treasurer  
Elizabeth Kunnizzie  
Terry Peterson  
Eddie Greenland  
Joe Benoit



# Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council

Sheldon Bernard

The Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council (ERRC) has been involved with numerous plans, meetings, reports and workshops this year. A lot of traveling has taken place and a lot of people have been met. Here is a list of items that the ERRC was involved with during the 1997/1998 season:

- Grizzly Bear Tagging
- Integrated Resource Management
- Mini-Assembly
- All Terrain Vehicle Trail meeting, Inuvik
- Hunters and Trappers Committee meeting
- Net/Cabin Inspection
- Spotting for Aklavik Search and Rescue
- Beaufort Delta Area Regional Trappers/Fur Workshop
- Protected Areas Workshop
- Regional Protected Areas Workshop
- Regional Renewable Resource Meeting
- Forest Management Workshop
- Land Management Control Rules



Verna Storr

Between the above noted dates 11 sets of agendas and minutes have been constructed and accounted for. There are 11 rather than 12 because the meeting during the month of April had no quorum. Twelve monthly reports have been filed. Two joint meetings with an auditor

and an accountant have been called due to the fact that finances have been poorly managed. ERRC is finally coming out of the red and stepping into the black. Everyone is happy.

Council has had a lot to deal with this year. We thank everyone for their guidance, suggestions, hard work and honesty. Until the next fiscal year, may only the best fall your way. Thank you and God bless.

**Councillors:**  
Joseph Benoit, President  
Dale Semple, Vice President  
Fanny Greenland,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
James McDonald Sr.  
George Nerysoo  
Stephan Bonnetplume



Norma Snowshoe and child at Ti'oondih



# Gwichya Gwich'in Council

Grace Blake

In August of 1997 we were busy holding the first ever Dene Games. We invited people from up the river right to the coast to this event. They drum danced their way into the wee hours of the morning, and during the day gathered down by the river flats for the games. People competed until around 6 or 7 p.m. Many people volunteered their time to help.

The Jimmy Jones Country Show, our radio show, was a hit by all the people that came to the games. This year we are extending the tower for a larger listening area, so listen for us on the FM dial soon.

A new school will be built in Tsiigehtchic next to the gym and across from there facing north is a brand new daycare centre which will be ready in September 1998.

Lisa Greenland, the new Elder and Youth Coordinator, moved to Tsiigehtchic and will work from here. She plans many week-long visits to the communities this year.

The *Journal* is a great success in Tsiigehtchic, and in places as far away



Rachel Robert and Grace Blake

as Montreal, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and France. We now have people from the US wanting the *Journal*. We finally hit it big in Tsiigehtchic with our news of everyday life in our community and in the surrounding area.

The elections for chief and council were held June 20. The results of the vote: Grace Blake won by eight votes over

Morris Blake. She is the new chief for Tsiigehtchic for a term of two years. Cable is now available to housing units and private dwellings for a fee of \$50 per month. The community is in complete control of the cable station; we own the system lock, stock and barrel.

The community is to renovate the band office and build a four-plex and a new school. The renovated band office will be larger, with eight offices and a much-needed board room. We are getting a permanent nurse in the community starting in September, and she will be staying in one of the new four-plexes.

The Council gave the go-ahead to build an RV Park about a mile from the gas station. In other tourism-related news, we now have a tourist centre across from the McPherson landing. Many tourists are visiting the new centre.

For more information about Gwichya Gwich'in Council activities, call 953-3201.



Gwichya Gwich'in



# Gwich'ya Gwich'in Renewable Resources

Dan Andre

The Gwich'ya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council has had a busy year! The task of ensuring the community is informed is an ever present challenge.

A reality that we all deal with in each community is that our people do not take the time to review initiatives and management plans in order for them to know what we are doing. We need to continue trying to communicate to the people so everyone can grasp the ideas of the big picture. We are working on projects for the benefit of all Gwich'in for the present and future. In order to have everyone's support they need to fully understand the reasons behind our actions.

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, the Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board and the local renewable resource councils have been working on management plans, programs and projects throughout the year.

The Gwich'in Harvester's Assistance Program is presently undergoing a review process, and new policies may be implemented before the next distribution of funds. This will take place some time in September for the fall and winter seasons. The program was initially designed to assist full time harvesters who were out on the land and was extended to part time harvesters, which created all the problems we now have with this program.

The Forestry Management Plan will be designed to take into account all living things in the forests, not just the trees. We presently use the forests for shelter, food, tools, heat, water and medicines. Trees alongside river banks are very important to all water systems in which they live. These trees control the water quality, quantity and the temperature of the water. Water temperature is critical for the fish stocks that live in these water systems.

The Grizzly Bear Management Plan is presently being implemented for the Gwich'in Settlement Area. This first year, Gwich'in beneficiaries only are allowed to harvest bears after obtaining a tag from

their local Renewable Resources Council. In the next year, for the hunting season July 1, 1999 to June 31, 2000, the RRCs, RWED, and the GRRB will be working toward establishing procedures for sport and other resident hunters.

The integrated Large Mammal Management Plan may include Dall's Sheep, moose, black bears, muskox, and woodland caribou. Preliminary work has been completed and is ongoing. Jason Marshall is compiling the status report.

The Gwich'in Traditional Ecological Knowledge Project Phase II has begun and the new coordinator is Deena Clayton. The first task will be to transcribe the tapes from the interviews and catalogue the information. Within the next two years another edition will be published, covering an additional 20 species. After organizing all the information, Deena will be making a community tour to verify the information collected.

The Gwich'in Harvest Study is in its third year. The study will be complete in July 2000. The study was identified in the Gwich'in Land Claim to protect Gwich'in harvesting rights by establishing a Gwich'in Minimum Needs Level for all wildlife harvested by the Gwich'in. The local Renewable Resources Council is involved in promoting and reviewing the progress of the study.

The Gwich'in Land Management and Control Rules are in final draft form. After consulting with the communities these rules will be law for land access by non-beneficiaries in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

The most important of all management plans is the Land Use Plan. All other plans will have to exist within the goals and objectives of the Land Use Plan. The purpose of the Land Use Plan is to ensure certain areas of land are being used according to their designations. The Prelimin and distributed in March 1998. All organizations are encouraged to comment on it as well as the Draft Land Use



George Niditchi

Plan which is the next document to be published before the Final Land Use Plan is submitted to the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Territorial Government and the Federal Government for approval.

After the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act passes and becomes law, it will empower the co-management boards to fully assume the powers granted them under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. The Gwich'in Land and Water Board made a community tour to inform everyone about how the new permitting and licencing system will work and outline each organization's role in the system.

To become effective management organizations we need to strive to enhance the integrated resource management system that was initiated in March of last year by all the co-management boards. Once we establish good communications throughout the region, doing business with each other will be easy.

It's easier to cooperate than to work against one another. Often people don't work together because they don't know what's happening. When crucial information is not distributed people get upset. On the other hand, it's up to our leaders to voice our concerns.

—Mussi



# Nihtat Gwich'in Council/Inuvik Native Band/Nihtat Gwich'in RRC

Barry Greenland, Neil Firth

The Nihtat Gwich'in Council (NGC) hopes that everyone had a good year and that this year will bring good health and spirits.

The Nihtat Gwich'in Council and the Inuvik Native Band presently includes Chief James B. Firth, Sub Chief Barry Greenland, Robert Charlie, Liz Hansen, Liz Wright, Pat Bourque, Leonard Debastien, Lorraine Lokos, Linda McDonald and Helen Sullivan. Chief James B. Firth and Robert Charlie both represent the Nihtat Gwich'in Council on the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors.

Over the past year the NGC/INB has successfully been involved with the beneficiaries in one way or another. We try our best to keep them informed of the happenings within the Gwich'in Nation. This has been a mandate for the NGC to work aside with the staff at the Alex Moses Greenland Building to accommodate those beneficiaries living in Inuvik. Chief James Firth has had many community hunts to provide caribou meat to the members in Inuvik, for those who could not hunt or trap wild meats from the Delta, the NGC provided for those persons or families with the luxury of having caribou meat for the family table.

Every year the Nihtat Gwich'in Council receives funding from the Gwich'in Tribal Council for the Community Coordinator and the Renewable Resource Coordinator, and their job is to provide information about the developments of our land claim through newsletters, radio and verbal reports to the beneficiaries. We hold monthly meetings to discuss issues and concerns that our Board of Directors can bring to the board meetings. The Nihtat Gwich'in Council holds a special assembly every three months at the Alex Moses Greenland Building and everyone is encouraged to attend.



Sandy Stewart, Robert Charlie and Richard Francis

Some of the major functions and projects that the Nihtat Gwich'in Council held throughout the year were:

- the youth and elders council meets once every month to hold their monthly meetings at the Alex Moses Greenland Building
- the Nihtat Gwich'in Council along with the Metis Local 62 held Aboriginal Days at the Alex Moses Greenland Building, providing steaks, hamburgers, hot dogs and aboriginal foods. This was a successful day and at least 100 people turned out.

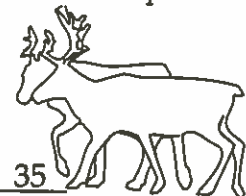
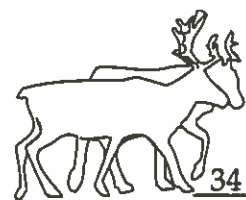
- we sent 40 people to the Gwich'in Gathering in Fort Yukon, Alaska in June 1998. This was a successful trip; everyone had a good time. We hope to see everyone in the year 2000 in Aklavik, where the next Gwich'in Gathering will be held.
- the Nihtat Gwich'in Council held the Gwich'in Tribal Council Special Assembly this year in Inuvik in the month of April. I would like to commend all those who assisted in preparing for the Special Assembly.

We must place more emphasis on our youth and elders. We need to hold more gatherings where we have our youth and elders working

together. We are losing more elders each year and with them our history and information is leaving us. We need to work closely with our young people on this.

During the winter months the Nihtat Gwich'in Council along with SAMS school participated in a cultural workshop at Rachel Reindeer's camp. The school students would go to the camp in the morning learning the traditional way of living. This was a successful program which we hope to run again in the winter months. We would like to thank those elders who participated in the program and hope to see you again next year teaching our young about the traditional ways of the Gwich'in people.

The Nihtat Gwich'in Council has been trying to keep the beneficiaries informed of the happenings about the Gwich'in Land Claim. The only way to keep them informed was to put together a package of information about the land claim. We have special meetings for beneficiaries every three months at the Alex Moses Greenland Building, and this gives people a chance to ask questions



about the Gwich'in Land Claim. It has been a challenging year for the chief and council and the staff at the Alex Moses Greenland Building, and we would like to thank all the people that assisted us this year and worked closely with us; working together is better than working alone. Let's keep communicating and working together to ensure our survival as one nation.

Nihtat Renewable Resource Council  
Neil Firth

The Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) were set up in 1992 with the implementation of our land claim. We keep our beneficiaries informed about renewable resource activities. The RRCs work closely with co-management boards and government agencies, both territorial and federal. We hold many workshops throughout the year. In January a two-day regional RRC meeting was held in Fort McPherson. All the RRCs from the communities attended. We dealt with issues like GHAP, grizzly bear management, forestry, fisheries and agency reports. In February we had elections for a new RRC council. The people who were



Alex Moses Greenland Building, Inuvik

elected are: Tommy Wright, president, Lorraine Lokos, Doug Villeneuve, Allen Firth, Pat Bourque, Harry Carmichael and Robert Charlie. In March there was a cultural camp for school students at the Rachel Reindeer camp. Students from both SAMS and Samuel Hearne schools participated. We had elders teaching them how to cut up caribou meat, making drymeat, setting

snare, bannock making and telling stories. Every day a different class would go out to camp. The students really enjoyed themselves. The Renewable Resources Board put on an eco-forestry and forestry training workshop in March, and all communities attended. There is lots of information at the RRC office about this workshop. In April the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) put on a Land Management and Control Rules workshop in Fort McPherson, and all communities participated. This workshop was held to help the GTC manage private lands. For the first time in four years beneficiaries will be allowed to hunt grizzly bears in the GSA. There is a quota of 12 bears or three per community. The RRCs will give out tags. The RRB will hold four tags in case of problem bears. The RRC, RRB and DFO are doing a fish study at Campbell Lake to study movements of whitefish and spawning areas. We had some people setting nets and tagging fish in different locations in Campbell Lake. Gwich'in Land and Water Board held a workshop in June about issuing land use permits and water licenses which they will be working very close with the GLWB as a community contact. We have lots of information in the RRC office so please drop by for a visit.



Chief Jim Koe Building, Inuvik



## Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

Robert Charlie, Chair

### Board Operations

The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (GRRB) completed its fourth year of operation in 1997-98. The Board is now well established and is conducting several research and management programs. As a regional, public board responsible for renewable resource management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA), the Board has ensured that the public is involved in renewable resource management programs.

The Board meets four times per year, once in each of the Gwich'in communities. During regular meetings in the communities the Board also meets with the Renewable Resource Councils (RRC) to discuss local renewable resource management issues.

### Research and Management Projects

The GRRB needs current information on renewable resources in the GSA to make informed management decisions. In



William Francis and George Kunnizzi

1997-1998 the Board allocated \$275,000 to fund 15 research and management projects. Projects funded included:

grizzly bear and moose research  
five fisheries projects  
forestry air photo interpretation and timber cruising projects  
Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project  
Peel River watershed mapping project  
Gwich'in Science and Youth Camps

By working closely with the RRCs and government agencies, the Board is working toward long term sustainable use and conservation of wildlife, fish and forest resources. The Board has ensured that community members are involved in approving research and management programs and in field research. Community field assistants make a valuable contribution to research projects.

### Renewable Resource Management

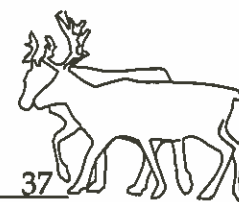
Planning for renewable resource use today and in the future has been a major focus for the GRRB and staff. Renewable resource management planning allows the communities, Board and agencies the opportunity to determine how resources will be used and managed.

The Board has the responsibility to ensure that wildlife, fish and forests are used in a sustainable manner so they are available for future generations. In the past year the Board has taken a lead role in developing grizzly bear and forest management plans for the GSA. The Board will continue to work toward developing resource management plans to identify resource use priorities, concerns and management needs.

The grizzly bear management plan progressed to the point where each RRC received two grizzly bear tags to allocate to beneficiaries in their community. This is the first time Gwich'in beneficiaries will harvest grizzly bears since the voluntary ban in May 1992.



Big John Copen



# Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

Forest management planning has continued and has involved timber cruising training and cruising, eco-forestry and forest management workshops and community meetings to determine forest use priorities.

## Gwich'in Harvest Study

The Gwich'in Harvest Study entered its third year of operation and has passed the halfway point of the study. The Harvest Study will protect Gwich'in hunting, fishing and trapping by setting the Gwich'in Minimum Needs level, and will provide information for renewable resource management.

The Harvest Study relies on the participation of Gwich'in living in the Settlement Area. To provide an incentive for participants, the Harvest Study includes a contest with monthly prizes awarded in each community. Harvest information is displayed in Renewable Resource Council offices so that community members can see the results as they become available.

## Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project

The Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project, Phase I was completed this year. The book *Nanh' Kak Geenjit Gwich'in Ginjik* (Gwich'in Words About the Land) was printed and distributed in December 1997. The Board launched the book with a feast in Fort McPherson. Elders were brought to the feast from all four communities and books were handed out. The book has been well received in the GSA.

The Board has started Phase II of the traditional knowledge project, which will produce a second book on an additional 20 wildlife and fish species. From November to March 1998 over 250 interviews were completed for Phase II and



Lydia Elias

considerable progress was made on the traditional knowledge database.

## Education and Training

Education and Training of Gwich'in beneficiaries in renewable resource research and management has been a major part of the GRRB operations. The Board has initiated several programs including: six full time on-the-job training positions (office manager, secretary, harvest study assistant, re-

search and management assistant, fisheries technician trainee, and forest management assistant) community interviewers for the Gwich'in Harvest Study and Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project. In total over 25 people



# Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

have been trained and employed as community interviewers in the past three years

summer student program: each summer the GRRB awards \$1,000 scholarships to college or university students pursuing studies in renewable resources or a related field the Board has an active staff training program that addresses professional enhancement of all staff active participation in community career days and science camps and fairs to encourage youth to pursue careers in renewable resource management

## Working Together to Take Care of the Land

The Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement requires that the GRRB work as a co-management board with Gwich'in and government agencies to ensure responsible renewable resource management. The GRRB has established good working relationships with co-management boards in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and in other land claim areas.

The community Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) are the foundation of

renewable resource management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The GRRB has worked closely with the RRCs to ensure their involvement in renewable resource research and decision making.

This year the Board organized a Trappers/Fur Workshop for the Beaufort/Delta area, and hosted an Eco-forestry and Forest Management Workshop. Those events brought RRC members together to discuss common concerns and provide their input on resource management.

## Board:

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

## Alternate Members:

Ron Morrison  
Kevin McCormick  
Roger Peet  
James Ross

## Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project Community Interviewers

Fort McPherson  
Myrna Vaneltsi  
Agnes Francis

Tsiigehtchic  
Dan Andre

Aklavik  
Michelle Furlong  
Charles Wright

Inuvik  
Larry Greenland  
Steven Charlie  
Beatrice Stewart

## Gwich'in Harvest Study Community Interviewers

Tsiigehtchic  
Julie Ann Andre  
Dan Andre

Aklavik



Victor Peterson and Ian McDonald

## Melba Mitchell

Fort McPherson  
Elizabeth Snowshoe  
Donna Koe

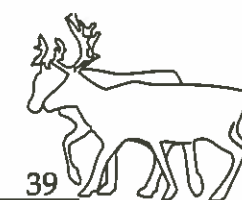
Summer Students  
Eleanor Jerome  
Anita Vittrekwa  
Herbert Blake

## Staff

Peter Clarkson, Executive Director  
Trina Edwards, Office Manager  
Cheryl Wright, Secretary  
Patrice Simon, Forestry/Fisheries Biologist  
Cheryl Chetkiewicz/Jason Marshall (August 1997), Wildlife Biologist  
Ian MacDonald, Harvest Study Coordinator  
Beverly Arey, Harvest Study Assistant  
Gleb Raygorodetsky/Gordon Petrie (November 1997), GEKP Coordinator  
Cheryl Wright, GEKP Transcriber  
Marie-Anick Elie, GEKP Researcher  
Doug Villeneuve, Research Management Assistant  
Isaac Imasuen, Research Assistant  
Donald Andre, Forest Management Assistant  
Ian McLeod/Steven Charlie (October 1997), Fisheries Tech Trainee



Kenny Smith



# Gwich'in Land and Water Working Group

Ken Weagle, Executive Director

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB) was to be established December 22, 1994, pursuant to chapter 24 of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) to regulate land and water use throughout the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA).

The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), which will give effect to the GLWB, is currently in the Senate and will likely be proclaimed and given Royal Assent this summer.

The Gwich'in Land and Water Working Group (GLWWG) was established in November of 1995 to do the preparatory work for the Land and Water Board and will become the Gwich'in Land and Water Board.

The object of the Land and Water Board is to provide for the conservation, development and utilization of the land and water resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area that will provide the most benefit for present and future residents of the Settlement Area and the Mackenzie Valley and for all Canadians.



Dwayne Semple

The Land and Water Board will have the following powers:

- issue, amend or renew licences, permits and authorizations for all uses of land and water, except where the municipality or local government exercise those powers within their respective boundaries
- oversee compliance with its decisions through inspections
- enforce or secure compliance with its

decisions by suspensions or cancellations of licences, permits and authorizations

- establish policies and guidelines applicable to its licences, permits and authorizations, and
- hold public consultations and hearings in communities in relation to any matter within its jurisdiction

Over the last year the Board has concentrated its activities on assuming from DIAND and the NWT Water Board the responsibilities for regulation of land and water use in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

These activities include:

community consultation process as related to application review  
integration of the co-management boards into the application review  
integration of traditional knowledge into the permitting process  
development of a single application form for land and water use  
integration of GIS information into application review  
Gwich'in Land and Water Board training



John Edward Snowshoe



# Gwich'in Land and Water Working Group



Eagle over the Mackenzie River



Caribou in the Gorge

The Gwich'in Land and Water Working Group feels that the Geographical Information System (GIS) will be a critical part of all application reviews and has directed the development of a GIS data base that will include the following:

Gwich'in Private Land Parcels  
Gwich'in Harvest Areas  
Municipal Boundaries  
Protected Area Boundaries (Land Use Plan)  
Transportation Corridors  
Water Bodies and Water Courses  
Stream Gauging Stations  
Elevations and Bench Marks  
Gazetted Place Names  
Past Land and Water Permits  
Slope and Aspect file  
Surficial Geology  
Sand and Gravel Inventory  
Heritage Sites  
Traditional Knowledge (Wildlife and Fish)  
Land Claim Cabins  
Dene Trails  
Traditional Place Names  
Grizzly Bear Zones and Quota

Vegetation Mapping  
Fisheries Data Summary MacKenzie Valley  
Gwich'in Harvest Study Information  
Dave Jones, our former Land and Water Technician, has moved on to other challenges. Dwayne Semple, our former Land and Water Technician Trainee is now the full time Land and Water Technician. Dwayne graduated from Aurora College in May 1998.

A Financial Officer position has been created and Cheryl Greenland, our former Secretary Receptionist, has been hired to fill this position. Elaine DeBastien has been hired as the Secretary Receptionist.

Brian Ferguson, the former Executive Director, has returned to his post within the Department of Fisheries and is now posted in Whitehorse. Ken Weagle, the new Executive Director, started in March of 1998.

Jeff Logan is our GIS Specialist and the Board will be adding a training position to work with him.

Wynet Smith, our former Integrated Resource Manager, left for the Kitikmeot last year and Neida Gonzalez has been hired in her place. The Land and Water Technician and other staff have been involved in reviewing the land and water applications that are currently being received by DIAND and the NWT Water Board.

The Board and Staff have been active in working with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Working Group, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Sahtu Land and Water Working Group in preparation for the passage of the Act.

Working Group:

Robert A. Alexie  
Willard Hagen  
David Krutko  
Norma Kassi  
Bob Simpson  
Rudy Cockney  
Peter Bannon



# Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board

Ron Cruikshank, Coordinator

The Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board was created when the land claim was settled December 22, 1992. The Board is responsible for land use planning in the Gwich'in Settlement Area until the permanent Land Use Plan is created when the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act is proclaimed by the Crown.

In 1997-98, the Board continued to work toward a draft land use plan based on the Strategic Plan completed in 1995. The Strategic Plan identified four stages of plan development:

Information Collection and Analysis  
Plan Options  
Draft Land Use Plan  
Final Land Use Plan

Prior to 1997, the Board completed the Information and Collection and Analysis and the Plan Options.

The Board released four significant documents in 1997-98:

Proposed Community Protected Areas: a document that presented 42 potential protected areas in the GSA based on a series of



Ken Koe's dogs on the Ti'oondih Road

workshops held in each of the communities; Summary of Land and Water Activities: a document that examined the forecast for the future of land use in the GSA based on the previously released Issues Document and the Inventory and Assessment Reports; The Protected Areas Strategy for the Gwich'in Settlement Region: the proceedings from a workshop co-sponsored with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource

Board held in Inuvik in November. The purpose of the workshop was to develop an approach for evaluating the protected areas identified in the Proposed Community Protected Areas binder. Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area: a preliminary draft plan was released to solicit responses from contributing and approval agencies prior to the production of a draft plan.

The Board held four board meetings, four conference calls and hosted 12 meetings with the communities, government and industry in 1997-98. The Board anticipates the completion of a draft plan at the time the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act is proclaimed in September 1998.

Board:  
Piet van Loon, chair  
Charlie Snowshoe, vice-chair  
Bob Simpson  
Karen LeGresley  
Hal Mils

Staff:  
Land Use Planner/Coordinator: Ron Cruikshank  
Land Use Planner: Neida Gonzalez  
Gwich'in Trainee: Allen Firth



Ron Cruikshank and Neida Gonzalez



# Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Working Group

Jim McCaul, Executive Director

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) will be given effect by the passage of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) which should be passed by the end of 1998.

The object of the Board will be to provide for the conservation, development and utilization of land and water resources throughout the Mackenzie Valley by regulating their uses.

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB) and Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) will become panels of the MVLWB and will assist the Board in carrying out its objective.

The Board will have the same powers as the GLWB as described in 24.1 of the Gwich'in Agreement.

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Working Group (MVLWWG) was established in February of 1998 to do the preparatory work for the Land and Water Board. Since its first meeting in February, the Working Group has established an office in Yellowknife, hired

staff and are preparing for passage of the MVRMA.

The Board is currently working with DIAND, industry, the Gwich'in and Sahtu Land and Water Boards and other parties to develop a meaningful water licencing and land use permitting process for the Mackenzie Valley. This will include paper flow, primary screening procedures, water licence hearings, board policies, and, most important, personnel and budget requirements. This must be completed before Part 4 of the MVRMA is proclaimed.

The Working Group would like to extend our appreciation to Eddie Kolausok and Cindy Villeneuve for assisting in getting the office up and running. Our offices are currently located on the third floor of the Goga Cho Building in Yellowknife right behind KFC. The door is always open, the coffee on, and guests are always welcome.

Our phone number is (867) 669-0506 and our fax number is (867) 873-6610.



George Edwards and daughter Prairie Dawn

Working Group:

Robert A. Alexie, Chair  
Willard Hagen  
David Krutko  
Norma Kassi  
Larry Wallace  
Rick Muyres  
Walter Bayha  
George Barnaby  
Mark Prystupa  
Sevn Bohnet

Note: the balance of the membership are awaiting appointment by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Staff:

Jim McCaul, Executive Director  
Wanda Anderson, Office Manager  
Marnie Fyten, Land Specialist  
Brent Murphy, Water Specialist  
Annette Quiring, Executive Assistant



Daryl English and William "Happy" Robert



# Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Working Group

Heidi Klein

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) will be established as the principle agency to undertake environmental assessment and review in the Mackenzie Valley. This Board's jurisdiction will apply to all lands in the Western Arctic, excluding the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Wood Buffalo National Park. The MVEIRB will be established under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA). This legislation has been proceeding through Parliament and is expected to be proclaimed in 1998.

The Working Group, established to guide the formation of the MVEIRB, has been preparing the operational procedures and guidelines required to implement the environmental assessment (EA) and review functions of the office. The annual budget for the Working Group is approximately \$700K.

## Membership

Membership on the Working Group changed during the course of the year. In 1997/98, the Working Group members were:

Gordon Lennie, - Chair Sahtu nominee  
Alestine Andre - Gwich'in nominee  
(resigned December 1997)

Sarah Jerome - Government of Canada nominee  
(resigned December 1997)

Len Colosimo - GNWT nominee  
Bertha Rabesca - Dogrib Tribal Council nominee

Ruby McDonald - Sahtu nominee

Joe Benoit - Gwich'in nominee

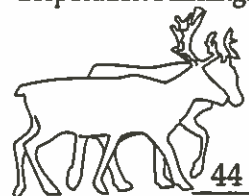
Peter Bannon - GNWT nominee

Brenda Kuzyk - Government of Canada nominee

Brenda Kuzyk resigned in October and was replaced by Marie Adams.

## Staffing and Location

The Working Group is still headquartered in Yellowknife; however, they relocated in May to offices on the second floor of the Scotia Centre from their initial temporary quarters in the Metis Nation Development Corporation building.



The Working Group staff consists of an Executive Director, two Environmental Assessment Officers, an Officer Manager and a Communications Officer.

## Activities 1997 - 1998

### Five Year Review

The Working Group prepared and submitted their five-year review to the Gwich'in Implementation Committee. The 5-year review allowed the Working Group to examine in detail its future activities and related financial needs.

### Working Group Activities

The Working Group held six meetings and numerous teleconferences during 1997-1998. In addition to regular meetings, Working Group members participated in several orientation sessions designed to develop a better understanding of the environmental impact assessment process. These were:

Course in Traditional Knowledge.

Site visit to Esso facilities in Norman Wells. Training in administrative law, writing reasons for decisions and holding board hearings; and A workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

The Working Group continued cooperating with other agencies and Working Groups in developing guidelines for preliminary screening. This activity will provide consistency among preliminary screeners in the Mackenzie Valley.

Also under development are the Environmental Assessment and Review Guidelines. These Guidelines will establish how the Board will handle environmental assessment referrals and environmental impact reviews. The Working Group is also finalizing their by-laws, and their Operations and Administration Manual. The latter contain the office management policies.

The staff has been assisting the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Working Group during its start-up by providing information on establishing a new organization.

### Public Information

The Working Group members had the opportunity to host public information sessions, attend meetings to disseminate



The MVEIRWG

information, and to build liaisons with other organizations.

The Working Group responded to the following invitations to provide information sessions:

Sahtu Secretariat Annual General Assembly in Fort Good Hope;

Gwich'in Annual General Assembly in Fort McPherson;

Fort Good Hope Open House (held jointly with the Sahtu Land and Water Working Group);

Presentation at the Geoscience Forum in Yellowknife;

Hay River Town Council information session and open house;

Presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development in November 1997 (via video-teleconference).

### The Next 12 Months

The Working Group will continue preparing for the implementation of Part V of the MVRMA. Activities will include:

finalizing interim preliminary screening, EA and impact review guidelines;

preparing transition procedures to accommodate the change from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act to the MVRMA;

community meetings and information sessions; and making recommendations for adoptions by the future Board.

Roland Semjanovs  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

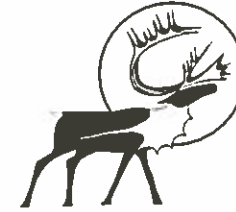
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Yellowknife NT, X1A 2N7

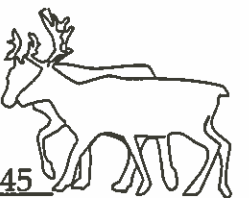
Phone 867-873-9636

Fax 867-920-4761

# The Tradition Continues...



## Albert Koe and William Koe ( Sons of the late Charles Koe)



## MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The accompanying financial statements of Gwich'in Tribal Council are the responsibility of management and have been approved by the President and Executive Director on behalf of the Council.

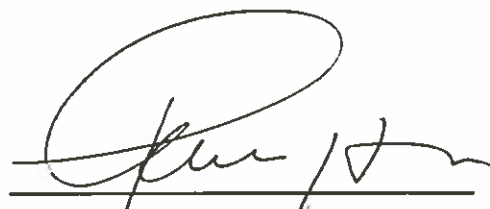
The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Financial statements are not precise since they include certain amounts based on estimates and judgments. When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances, in order to ensure that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects.

The Council maintains systems of internal accounting and administrative controls of high quality, consistent with reasonable cost. Such systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is relevant, reliable and accurate and the Council's assets are appropriately accounted for and adequately safeguarded.

The Council is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements. Council carries out this responsibility principally through its Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee, composed of four Council members, reviews the Council's financial statements and recommends their approval to Council. The Audit Committee meets periodically with management, as well as the external auditors, to discuss internal controls over the financial reporting process, auditing matters and financial reporting issues, to satisfy themselves that each party is properly discharging their responsibilities, and to review the financial statements and the external auditors' report. The Audit Committee reports its findings to the Council for consideration when approving the financial statements for issuance to the Members.

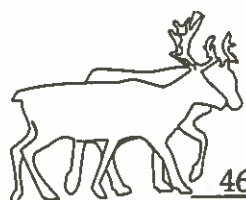
The financial statements have been audited by the independent firm KPMG in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of the members. Their report to the members of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, stating the scope of their examination and opinion on the financial statements, follows.



President



Vice President



## AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the consolidated statement of financial position of the Gwich'in Tribal Council as at March 31, 1998 and the consolidated statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in members' equity 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 consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 1998 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.

HPMG

Chartered Accountants

Edmonton, Canada

May 15, 1998



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 1998, with comparative figures for 1997

	1998	1997
Assets		
Financial assets:		
Cash	\$ 232,113	\$ 52,141
Accounts receivable	946,291	907,801
Prepaid expenses	20,363	-
Land claim settlement assets (note 2)	100,293,763	95,923,043
	101,492,530	96,882,985
Capital assets (note 3)	232,574	247,873
	\$ 101,725,104	\$ 97,130,858

Liabilities and Members' Equity

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 815,057	\$ 718,626
Deferred revenue	11,869	20,000
	826,926	738,626
Members' equity:		
Equity in capital assets	232,574	247,873
Operating fund	371,841	221,316
Land claim settlement fund	100,293,763	95,923,043
	100,898,178	96,392,232
	\$ 101,725,104	\$ 97,130,858

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Council:

Director

Director



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year ended March 31, 1998, with comparative figures for 1997

	Budget	1998	1997
Revenue:			
Contributions:			
DIAND	\$ 1,117,829	\$ 1,344,915	\$ 1,525,166
Government of Canada	1,085,969	1,122,311	1,088,859
Government of NWT	836,319	827,963	915,438
Other First Nations	195,840	195,840	114,392
Royalties	300,000	213,058	300,432
Interest	-	5,459	8,343
Other	39,507	175,846	341,297
Earnings of land claim settlement accounts	6,000,000	6,170,720	5,477,560
	9,575,464	10,056,112	9,771,487
Expenditures (note 4):			
Operating:			
Core activities:			
Claim implementation	196,000	195,739	201,969
Council support	1,633,012	1,345,187	1,180,937
Enrollment	50,000	57,961	-
Management development	80,000	80,000	-
Self government	352,000	351,912	326,446
Other core activities	-	35,130	18,000
	2,311,012	2,065,929	1,727,352
Program activities:			
Child care	35,000	23,169	20,941
Elders and youth programs	-	32,708	34,104
Forestry and land management	-	66,325	-
Land administration	75,000	127,467	199,492
Mackenzie River	60,958	107,481	122,806
Pathways	533,268	511,181	643,860
Renewable Resource Councils	-	24,215	43,493
Special projects	-	63,479	128,666
Tourism	-	10,223	48,159
Other program activities	-	25,873	128,267
	704,226	992,121	1,369,788
Ti'oondih healing activities	879,900	887,319	1,170,573
Social and cultural activities	423,150	476,366	552,261
	4,318,288	4,421,735	4,819,974
Capital asset acquisitions	5,000	79,473	144,932
	4,323,288	4,501,208	4,964,906
Excess of revenues over expenditures before contributions	5,252,176	5,554,904	4,806,581
Contributions:			
Renewable Resource Councils	176,817	176,819	176,819
Community organizations	-	-	68,555
Designated Gwich'in organizations	300,000	300,000	300,000
Brighter Futures Program	355,719	355,719	351,780
Child Care	160,840	161,121	93,451
Elders/Youth Funding	40,000	40,000	-
	1,033,376	1,033,659	990,605
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 4,218,800	\$ 4,521,245	\$ 3,815,976

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Members' Equity

Year ended March 31, 1998, with comparative figures for 1997

	Equity in capital assets	Operating fund	Land claim settlement fund	1998	1997
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 247,873	\$ 221,316	\$ 95,923,043	\$ 96,392,232	\$92,550,092
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	-	(1,649,475)	6,170,720	4,521,245	3,815,976
Investment in capital assets	79,473	-	-	79,473	144,932
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	-	-	-	(28,689)
Amortization of capital assets	(94,772)	-	-	(94,772)	(90,079)
Transfers	-	1,800,000	(1,800,000)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 232,574	\$ 371,841	\$100,293,763	\$ 100,898,178	\$ 96,392,232

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 1998, with comparative figures for 1997

	1998	1997
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 4,521,245	\$ 3,815,976
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(38,490)	(257,663)
Prepaid expenses	(20,363)	15,275
Accounts payable	96,431	(101,810)
Deferred revenue	(8,131)	(45,211)
	4,550,692	3,426,567
Investments:		
Increase in land claim settlement assets	(4,370,720)	(3,592,560)
Increase (decrease) in cash	179,972	(165,993)
Cash, beginning of year	52,141	218,134
Cash, end of year	\$ 232,113	\$ 52,141

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 1998

Gwich'in Tribal Council (the "Council") is an aboriginal organization that represents approximately 2,400 Gwich'in in the Mackenzie Delta of the Northwest Territories. The Council was established in 1983 by the Band Councils and Metis Locals of the four communities of Aklavik, Arctic Red River, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. The Council is incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act and is not subject to any federal, territorial or local government taxes or similar charges.

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:

The consolidated financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local government entities established by the Public Sector Accounting and Auditing Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Council are as follows:

a) Reporting entity:

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures and changes in members' equity of the reporting entity which comprises all the organizations that are accountable for the administration of their financial affairs and resources to the Council and are owned or controlled by the Council. They include the following:

Entity	Year end
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute	March 31, 1998
Ti'oondih Healing Society	March 31, 1998
Gwich'in Enrollment Board	March 31, 1998



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

a) Reporting entity, continued:

Land claim settlement assets include the land claim settlement accounts of the Council, the Gwich'in Education and Training Fund and the net assets of the following entities:

Entity	Year end
Gwich'in Development Corporation	December 31, 1997
Gwich'in Properties Ltd.	December 31, 1997
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	March 31, 1998
Gwich'in Land Corporation	March 31, 1998

b) Capital assets:

Capital assets are reported as expenditures in the period they are acquired. Recorded capital assets are amortized annually with a corresponding reduction in Equity in Capital Assets. Capital assets are amortized over their expected useful life using the following methods 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%
Telecommunication	Straight-line	30%
Satellite data	Straight-line	10 years

c) Revenue recognition:

Revenue is recognized as it becomes receivable under the terms of applicable funding agreements. Funding received under funding arrangements which relates to a subsequent fiscal period is reflected as deferred revenue.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

2. Land claim settlement assets:

Land claim settlement assets comprise the settlement proceeds received pursuant to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement signed April 22, 1992 and accumulated earnings of the Gwich'in Tribal Council Land Claim Settlement accounts.

	1998	1997
Settlement proceeds	\$ 69,190,104	\$ 69,190,104
Accumulated earnings	31,103,659	26,732,939
	\$ 100,293,763	\$ 95,923,043

Financial information relating to land claim settlement assets is as follows:

1998	Assets	Liabilities	Revenues	Expenditures	Earnings (loss)
Gwich'in Development Corporation	\$ 6,269,538	\$ 2,653,675	\$ 10,667,839	\$10,782,585	\$ (114,746)
Gwich'in Properties Ltd.	6,217,309	4,239,477	322,138	317,397	4,741
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	28,744,706	25,052	2,335,139	304,943	2,030,196
Gwich'in Land Corporation	1	-	-	-	-
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	144,207	2,000	10,235	72,757	(62,522)
Land claim settlement accounts of the Council	105,183,570	3,896,211	5,749,043	1,468,435	4,280,608
Eliminations	(35,475,838)	(26,685)	(217,272)	(249,715)	32,443
	\$ 111,083,493	\$ 10,789,730	\$ 18,867,122	\$12,696,402	\$6,170,720

1997	Assets	Liabilities	Revenues	Expenditures	Earnings (loss)
Gwich'in Development Corporation	\$15,042,402	\$ 3,399,658	\$ 16,773,086	\$17,183,256	\$ (410,170)
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	19,709,895	20,437	1,777,506	110,679	1,666,827
Gwich'in Land Corporation	1	-	-	-	-
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	206,529	2,000	26,855	253,055	(226,200)
Land claim settlement accounts of the Council	103,887,048	9,165,997	6,174,472	1,734,854	4,439,618
Eliminations	(30,841,269)	(506,529)	-	(7,485)	7,485
	\$ 108,004,606	\$12,081,563	\$ 24,751,919	\$19,274,359	\$5,477,560



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

3. Capital assets:

	1998		1997	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Buildings	-	-	-	20,892
Computer hardware and software	305,248	192,165	113,083	106,837
Equipment	69,399	47,367	22,032	24,930
Furniture and fixtures	110,866	57,443	53,423	45,667
Automotive	39,253	35,328	3,925	15,701
Marine	31,803	19,082	12,721	22,262
Telecommunication	14,110	11,758	2,352	6,584
Satellite data	27,820	2,782	25,038	-
	\$ 598,499	\$ 365,925	\$ 232,574	\$ 247,873

4. Expenditures by object:

	1998	1997
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$1,610,344	\$ 1,822,770
Honoraria	113,294	102,196
External consultants	506,950	300,842
Professional fees	227,973	326,918
Office and administration	482,826	532,495
Rent	337,158	272,717
Travel	434,777	425,646
Training	392,869	528,572
Donations and Christmas hampers	74,798	102,619
Annual general assembly	176,949	162,272
Camp operations	63,797	242,927
	\$4,421,735	\$ 4,819,974



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

5. Related entities:

The Council exercises significant influence over the Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board, Gwich'in Land and Water Working Group, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Gwich'in Wildlife Studies Fund. The Council has the ability to appoint a portion of the board of directors of each of these entities. None of these entities have been consolidated in the Council's financial statements. Financial statements of these entities are available upon request. Financial summaries of these unconsolidated entities as at March 31, 1998 and 1997 and for the years then ended are as follows:

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

The Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board was established to conduct land use planning in the Gwich'in Settlement Region 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". The Board is incorporated under the Societies Act of the Northwest Territories and is exempt from income taxes under Section 149 of the Income Tax Act. The financial position and results of operations of the Board are as follows:

	1998	1997
Total assets	\$ 29,542	\$ 32,157
Total liabilities	15,250	27,567
Net assets	\$ 14,292	\$ 4,590
Total revenues	\$ 350,970	\$ 264,703
Total expenditures	341,268	269,709
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ 9,702	\$ (5,006)

The Council contributed \$26,132 (1997 - \$nil) to the Board for training during the year.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

5. Related entities, continued:

(ii) Gwich'in Land and Water Working Group:

The Gwich'in Land and Water Working Group was temporarily created pending the enactment of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, after which the Gwich'in Land and Water Board will be established. The Gwich'in Land and Water Board will regulate land and water use throughout the settlement area, including Gwich'in Lands. The Working Group is incorporated under the Societies Act of the Northwest Territories and is exempt from income taxes under Section 149 of the Income Tax Act. The financial position and results of operations of the Working Group are as follows:

	1998	1997
Total assets	\$ 142,707	\$ 105,847
Total liabilities	35,641	27,539
Net assets	\$ 107,066	\$ 78,308
Total revenues	\$ 883,746	\$ 656,310
Total expenditures	854,987	578,002
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 28,759	\$ 78,308

The Council contributed \$9,450 (1997 - \$nil) to the Board for training during the year.

(iii) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board:

The Gwich'in Renewable Resource 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 and wildlife harvesting and for the business and operation of guiding and outfitting, hunting, fishing and naturalist lodges. The Board may also 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. The Board is incorporated under the Societies Act of the Northwest Territories and is exempt from income taxes under Section 149 of the Income Tax Act. The financial position and results of operations of the Board are as follows:

	1998	1997
Total assets	\$ 347,726	\$ 157,031
Total liabilities	61,755	69,845
Net assets	\$ 285,971	\$ 87,186



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

5. Related entities, continued:

(iii) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, continued:

	1998	1997
Total revenues	\$ 1,443,524	\$ 1,234,022
Total expenditures	1,244,739	1,188,237
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 198,785	\$ 45,785

The Council contributed \$34,878 (1997 - \$61,000) to the Board for training during the year.

(iv) Gwich'in Wildlife Studies Fund:

The Gwich'in Wildlife Studies Fund has been established to fund research about wildlife in the Gwich'in Settlement Region. The Fund is managed by the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board. The net assets and changes in net assets of the Fund are as follows:

	1998	1997
Net assets	\$ 2,672,630	\$ 2,622,038
Total contributions and investment income	\$ 250,592	\$ 257,125
Total distributions and administrative expenditures	200,000	102,000
Net increase in net assets	\$ 50,592	\$ 155,125



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

6. 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.

	Opening balance	Contributions net of distributions	Net investment earnings	Closing balance
Gwich'in Trust for the year ended March 31, 1998	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust for the year ended December 31, 1997	2,899,818	1,216,543	247,372	4,363,733
	\$ 2,899,819	\$ 1,216,543	\$ 247,372	\$ 4,363,734

	1998		1997	
	Carrying value	Market value	Carrying value	Market value
Cash	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1
Fixed income investments:				
Government and government-guaranteed bonds, with effective interest rates of 6.56% to 6.63%, maturing in 2005	2,898,584	3,259,571	2,902,598	3,062,039
Common stocks:				
Canadian	1,262,739	1,311,241	—	—
United States	142,805	161,035	—	—
International	75,611	73,150	—	—
	1,481,155	1,545,426	—	—
Accounts payable	(16,006)	(16,006)	(2,780)	(2,780)
	\$ 4,363,734	\$ 4,788,992	\$ 2,899,819	\$ 3,059,260



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

7. Salaries, honoraria, travel and other remuneration:

	Salaries and Honoraria	Travel	Other Amounts	1998 Total
President	\$ 85,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 13,500	\$ 131,500
Vice Presidents (2)	147,000	9,900	27,000	183,900
Current Council Members (8)	27,575	8,200	—	35,775
Past Council Members (4)	7,400	—	—	7,400
Current Executive Director	11,250	5,300	—	16,550
Past Executive Director	53,252	4,900	—	58,152
Financial Controller	85,000	5,700	13,500	104,200
	\$ 416,477	\$ 67,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 537,477

8. Budget information:

The budget information disclosed was approved by the Council on May 14, 1997.

9. Comparative figures:

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



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 1998, with comparative figures for 1997

	1998	1997
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 673,387	\$ 2,040,429
Accounts receivable	1,352,193	1,836,653
Inventories (note 2)	1,198,660	1,373,052
Current portion of notes receivable	17,000	75,000
Current portion of mortgages receivable	788,696	461,056
Current portion of future settlement proceeds	5,290,714	4,848,528
Deferred income taxes	9,500	—
Prepaid expenses	137,274	78,521
	9,467,424	10,713,239
Notes receivable (note 3)	478,205	375,000
Mortgages receivable (note 4)	272,087	287,184
Investments (note 5)	29,101,848	20,050,246
Income producing properties (note 6)	7,440,627	7,310,948
Capital assets (note 7)	3,231,146	3,237,220
Future settlement proceeds [note 8(a)]	61,092,156	66,382,870
Settlement lands [note 8(b)]		
	\$ 111,083,493	\$ 108,356,707
Liabilities and Beneficiaries' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 727,351	\$ 1,555,021
Unearned revenue	12,824	714,325
Current portion of capital lease obligations	81,217	—
Current portion of long-term debt	579,021	787,241
Current portion of claims loan agreement	718,209	677,557
	2,118,622	3,734,144
Obligations under capital leases (note 9)	418,306	—
Long-term debt (note 10)	998,600	727,109
Claims loan agreement [note 8(c)]	7,254,202	7,972,411
Beneficiaries' equity:		
Settlement proceeds	69,190,104	69,190,104
Accumulated earnings	31,103,659	26,732,939
	100,293,763	95,923,043
Economic dependence (note 14)		
	\$ 111,083,493	\$ 108,356,707

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 Earnings and Accumulated Earnings

Year ended March 31, 1998, with comparative figures for 1997

	1998	1997
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Sales	\$ 10,508,012	\$ 17,308,562
Investment income:		
Interest	6,979,194	7,407,993
Dividends	119,406	19,396
Gain on disposal of investments	1,102,848	543,463
	8,201,448	7,970,852
Other (note 13)	157,662	157,602
	18,867,122	25,437,016
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Cost of sales	8,519,719	14,893,227
Selling, general and administrative	1,737,876	2,058,539
Depreciation and amortization	946,829	1,065,607
Interest on long-term debt	124,635	74,492
Interest on claims loan agreement	455,308	493,662
Interest and other	59,410	30,975
Education and training	66,392	251,055
	11,910,169	18,867,557
<b>Earnings before the undemoted</b>	<b>6,956,953</b>	<b>6,569,459</b>
<b>Other revenue (expenditures):</b>		
Loss on disposal of capital assets and income producing properties	(140,263)	(70,634)
Write-down in value of investments	(20,625)	—
Equity in earnings of associated companies	57,031	34,592
Other	29,171	19,156
	(74,686)	(16,886)
<b>Earnings before income taxes</b>	<b>6,882,267</b>	<b>6,552,573</b>
<b>Income taxes:</b>		
Current	19,764	319,461
Benefit of losses carried forward	(28,717)	(261,746)
Deferred (reduction)	(9,500)	(7,702)
	(18,453)	50,013
<b>Earnings before contributions</b>	<b>6,900,720</b>	<b>6,502,560</b>
<b>Contributions:</b>		
Gwich'in Tribal Council Operations	1,550,000	1,200,000
Tl'oondih Healing Society	100,000	600,000
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute	100,000	85,000
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust	725,000	725,000
Gwich'in Enrolment Board	50,000	—
Payments to Elders	5,000	—
Beaufort Delta Board of Education	—	250,000
Emergency Housing	—	50,000
	2,530,000	2,910,000
<b>Net earnings</b>	<b>4,370,720</b>	<b>3,592,560</b>
<b>Accumulated earnings, beginning of year</b>	<b>26,732,939</b>	<b>23,140,379</b>
<b>Accumulated earnings, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 31,103,659</b>	<b>\$ 26,732,939</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

## Land Claim Settlement Fund

### Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 1998, with comparative figures for 1997

	1998	1997
<b>Cash provided by (used in):</b>		
<b>Operations:</b>		
Net earnings	\$ 4,370,720	\$ 3,592,560
Items which do not involve cash:		
Deferred income taxes	(9,500)	(7,702)
Depreciation and amortization	946,829	1,065,607
Equity in earnings of associated companies	(57,031)	(34,592)
Loss on disposal of capital assets and income producing properties	140,263	70,634
Write-down in value of investments	20,625	—
Change in non-cash operating working capital (note 17)	(929,072)	2,152,750
	4,482,834	6,839,257
<b>Financing:</b>		
Proceeds of long-term debt	834,715	1,291,523
Repayments of long-term debt	(771,444)	(686,069)
Obligations under capital leases	537,549	—
Principal repayments under capital lease obligations	(38,026)	—
Claims loan agreement repayments	(677,557)	(639,202)
	(114,763)	(33,748)
<b>Investments:</b>		
Increase in notes receivable	(45,205)	(450,000)
Principal repayments of notes receivable	—	60,000
Increase in mortgages receivable	(326,500)	(300,000)
Principal repayments of mortgages receivable	13,957	623,437
Purchase of investments	(9,015,196)	(8,662,327)
Purchase of income producing properties	(706,657)	(1,233,329)
Proceeds from disposal of income producing properties	157,950	67,640
Purchase of capital assets	(1,332,161)	(1,063,555)
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets	670,171	192,083
Decrease in future settlement proceeds	4,848,528	4,443,299
	(5,735,113)	(6,322,752)
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash</b>	<b>(1,367,042)</b>	<b>482,757</b>
<b>Cash, beginning of year</b>	<b>2,040,429</b>	<b>1,557,672</b>
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 673,387</b>	<b>\$ 2,040,429</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 1998

Gwich'in Tribal Council (the "Council") is an aboriginal organization that represents approximately 2,400 Gwich'in in the Mackenzie Delta of the Northwest Territories. The Council was established in 1983 by the Band Councils and Metis Locals of the four communities of Aklavik, Arctic Red River, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. The Council is incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act and is not subject to any federal, territorial or local government taxes or similar charges.

Revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities of the Council have been grouped into two distinct funds, Operations and the Land Claim Settlement Fund.

Operations includes the core and program operating accounts of the Council.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council Land Claim Settlement Fund includes the land claim settlement accounts of the Council, and was established to receive, preserve and enhance the capital, lands and other benefits transferred to the Gwich'in pursuant to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement signed April 22, 1992.

This financial statement reflects the financial position and results of operations of the Gwich'in Tribal Council Land Claim Settlement Fund. Gwich'in Tribal Council Operations are reported separately. Consolidated financial statements for the Gwich'in Tribal Council have been prepared in addition to these financial statements.

1. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Basis of presentation:

The consolidated financial statements include the land claim settlement accounts of the Council Land Claim Settlement Fund and the following entities:

Entity	Year end
Gwich'in Development Corporation	December 31, 1997
Gwich'in Properties Ltd.	December 31, 1997
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	March 31, 1998
Gwich'in Land Corporation	March 31, 1998
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	March 31, 1998

(b) Inventories:

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



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

(c) Investments:

Fixed income investments are carried at amortized cost or at amortized cost less amounts written off to reflect a permanent decline in value. Interest is recognized on an effective yield basis.

Investments in publicly traded common stocks are recorded at cost, or at cost less amounts written off to reflect a permanent decline in value.

Investments in the following associated companies have been accounted for using the equity method:

Larga Ltd. 3180018 Manitoba Ltd.

Under the equity method, the original cost of the shares is adjusted for the Council's share of post-acquisition earnings or losses less dividends.

(d) Income producing properties:

Income producing properties are recorded at cost. Depreciation and amortization is provided using the declining balance method at the following annual rates:

Asset	Rate
Buildings	4%-10%
Furniture	10%



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

(e) Capital assets:

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

Asset	Basis	Rate
Buildings	Declining balance	4% - 10%
Land improvements	Straight-line	5 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%
Satellite data	Straight-line	10 years
Acquisition costs	Straight-line	5 years
Goodwill	Straight-line	10 years
Rights to contracts	Straight-line	10 years
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	10 years
Heat distribution system	Straight-line	40 years

Depreciation is provided on heavy equipment under capital lease on the straight-line basis over five years to the estimated residual value.

All costs incurred during the pre-production and construction period of development are capitalized as construction work-in-progress.

Depreciation on the aircraft is provided on the straight-line basis over 10 years to a residual value of 25% of the original cost.

The fair value of goodwill is regularly evaluated by reviewing the returns of the related business, taking into account the risk associated with the investment. Any permanent impairment in the value of goodwill is written off against earnings.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

(f) 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	Nihtat Gwich'in Council
Gwichya Gwich'in Council	Teet'it Gwich'in Council
Gwich'in Tribal Council	Gwich'in Land Corporation
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	Gwich'in Development Corporation
Gwich'in Trust	Tl'oondih Healing Society
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust	Gwich'in Properties Ltd.

Revenues on contracts are included in income based on the percentage of completion of the individual contracts. Losses on contracts in progress are recognized as soon as they can be estimated.

Unearned revenue represents the excess of amounts billed over costs incurred and a provision for potential warranty claims based on warranty terms and prior claim experience.

(g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Inventories:

	1998	1997
Work-in-progress	\$ -	\$ 69,303
Retail goods for resale	40,570	49,276
Properties held for resale	59,665	105,000
Land held for resale	1,030,329	1,006,624
	1,130,564	1,160,900
Parts and supplies	68,096	142,849
	\$ 1,198,660	\$ 1,373,052



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued  
Year ended March 31, 1998

## 3. Notes receivable:

	1998	1997
Delta Western Fuel Canada Inc. promissory note, interest at prime, with semi-annual principal payments of \$25,000, due May 1, 2004	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000
Red River Incorporated Band, 8% note receivable in monthly instalments of \$1,665 including interest, due June 30, 2000	45,205	—
	495,205	450,000
Current portion of notes receivable	17,000	75,000
	\$ 478,205	\$ 375,000

The note receivable from Delta Western Fuel Canada Inc. has been secured by a guarantee from its parent company, Western Pioneer Inc., and an agreement pledging Delta Western Fuel Canada Inc.'s shares in Klondike River Lodge Ltd. to the Council. As at March 31, 1998, scheduled repayments on the note have not been made. The Council is currently negotiating amended repayment terms. As a result, the note has been reflected as a non-current asset.

## 4. Mortgages receivable:

	1998	1997
933336 NWT Ltd., 12% mortgage receivable in monthly instalments of interest only, due on March 31, 1998	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000
Black Mountain Development Corporation Ltd. 8% mortgage receivable in monthly instalments of \$2,844 including interest, due October 1, 2011	284,283	298,240
953847 NWT Ltd., 12% mortgage receivable, due on demand	326,500	—
	1,060,783	748,240
Current portion of mortgages receivable	788,696	461,056
	\$ 272,087	\$ 287,184

The mortgage receivable from 933336 NWT Ltd. was not repaid on March 31, 1998. 933336 NWT Ltd. is currently seeking alternative financing and expects to repay all outstanding principal and interest within the next year. Therefore, the mortgage has been classified as a current asset.

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued  
Year ended March 31, 1998

## 5. Investments:

	1998		1997	
	Carrying value	Market value	Carrying value	Market value
Cash	\$ 176,273	\$ 176,273	\$ 400,934	\$ 400,934
Fixed income:				
Government and government guaranteed bonds, with average effective yields of 7.1% (1997 - 7.5%) and maturity dates from September 1, 1999 to March 8, 2029 (1997 - September 1, 1999 to June 20, 2025)	12,470,923	12,717,833	10,899,567	10,794,840
Corporate bonds, with average effective yields of 6.7% (1997 - 7.6%) and maturity dates from August 23, 1999 to December 7, 2026 (1997 - August 10, 1998 to April 17, 2026)	5,377,251	5,643,567	3,502,561	3,534,162
Short-term notes and deposits, with average effective yields of 4.5% (1997 - 2.9%) and maturity dates of less than one year	1,658,517	1,640,246	920,766	920,766
	19,506,691	20,001,646	15,322,894	15,249,768
Common stocks:				
Canadian	5,167,874	6,194,939	2,299,567	2,274,850
United States	3,564,339	4,830,774	1,443,333	1,472,911
	8,732,213	11,025,713	3,742,900	3,747,761
Amounts receivable, net	304,477	304,477	222,730	222,730
	28,719,654	31,508,109	19,689,458	19,621,193
Investments in associated companies:				
Larga Ltd. (37.5% interest)	382,194	382,194	340,163	340,163
3180018 Manitoba Ltd. (25% interest)	—	—	20,625	20,625
	382,194	382,194	360,788	360,788
	\$ 29,101,848	\$ 31,890,303	\$ 20,050,246	\$ 19,981,981



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

6. Income producing properties:

		1998		1997	
		Cost	Accumulated depreciation and amortization	Net book value	Net book value
<b>Performing:</b>					
<b>Housing:</b>					
Fort McPherson	- building	\$ 1,209,093	\$ 166,319	\$ 1,042,774	\$ 921,747
	- land	36,859	-	36,859	39,309
Aklavik	- building	447,296	57,278	390,018	246,629
	- land	20,000	-	20,000	10,000
Inuvik	- building	410,950	75,706	335,244	349,213
	- land	59,000	-	59,000	59,000
J. Koe building	- building	2,241,832	147,122	2,094,710	2,150,981
	- land	304,563	-	304,563	304,563
C. Koe building	- building	798,806	156,003	642,803	636,352
	- land	1,300	-	1,300	-
Ti'oondih Healing Camp	- building	1,954,815	496,189	1,458,626	1,654,108
Inuvik Visitors Centre	- land	100,000	-	100,000	100,000
Construction shop	- building	410,513	58,766	351,747	337,558
	- land	56,000	-	56,000	56,000
Construction camp	- building	219,546	36,359	183,187	201,032
Trucking shop	- building	5,000	668	4,332	4,512
	- land	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Yellowknife	- building	60,000	2,400	57,600	-
	- land	45,000	-	45,000	-
Furniture		34,207	16,278	17,929	21,971
		8,429,780	1,213,088	7,216,692	7,107,975
<b>Non-performing:</b>					
Fort McPherson	- land	93,298	-	93,298	75,973
Inuvik	- land	91,816	-	91,816	90,000
Dawson	- land	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
Arctic Red River	- land	13,821	-	13,821	12,000
		223,935	-	223,935	202,973
		\$ 8,653,715	\$ 1,213,088	\$ 7,440,627	\$ 7,310,948



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

7. Capital assets:

			1998	1997
	Cost	Accumulated depreciation and amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ 24,726	\$ —	\$ 24,726	\$ 24,726
Land improvements	12,929	7,758	5,171	7,757
Building - Klondike River Lodge	384,056	58,258	325,798	334,533
Leasehold improvements	—	—	—	28,841
Heat distribution system	570,881	10,704	560,177	—
Aircraft	381,288	7,149	374,139	—
Automotive	364,225	205,051	159,174	197,519
Heavy equipment, trailers and accessories	1,569,624	585,949	983,675	1,743,445
Equipment and tools	301,273	137,916	163,357	196,649
Furniture and fixtures	38,587	10,719	27,868	22,167
Computer hardware and software	121,720	66,296	55,424	108,756
Satellite data	—	—	—	81,443
	3,769,309	1,089,800	2,679,509	2,745,836
Heavy equipment under capital leases	537,549	38,080	499,469	—
Construction work-in-progress	—	—	—	358,484
Acquisition costs	94,104	94,104	—	64,037
Goodwill	86,943	34,775	52,168	60,862
Rights to contracts	—	—	—	8,001
	181,047	128,879	52,168	132,900
	\$ 4,487,905	\$ 1,256,759	\$ 3,231,146	\$ 3,237,220



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

8. 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. To March 31, 1998, the Council has received \$49,143,248 including interest at 9.12%. Future settlement proceeds consist of the following:

Table with 3 columns: Description, 1998, 1997. Rows include Future settlement proceeds principal, Accrued interest, Current portion of future settlement proceeds, and totals.

Future settlement proceeds are to be received as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Principal, Interest, Total. Rows show scheduled payments from 1999 to 2004 and all subsequent years.

(b) Settlement lands:

The Council has received and will receive title to various lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Region including: 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, 1998

8. 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 N.W.T. 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:

Table with 3 columns: Description, 1998, 1997. Rows include Claims loan agreement principal, Accrued interest, Current portion of claims loan agreement, and totals.

Scheduled repayments are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Principal, Interest, Total. Rows show scheduled repayments from 1999 to 2004 and all subsequent years.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

9. Obligations under capital leases:

Year ending March 31:		
1999	\$	121,833
2000		121,833
2001		121,833
2002		121,833
2003		131,939
Total minimum lease payments		
		619,271
Less amount representing interest (at rates ranging from 7.8% to 9.0%)		
		(119,748)
Present value of net minimum lease payments		
		499,523
Current portion of obligations under capital leases		
		81,217
	\$	418,306

Interest of \$22,893 (1997 - \$nil) relating to capital lease obligations has been included in interest on long-term debt.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued  
Year ended March 31, 1998

10. Long-term debt:

	1998	1997
Prime plus 2% conditional sales contract, payable in monthly instalments of \$8,548 including interest, secured by a lien on a 1993 Caterpillar 14G motor grader (carrying value \$197,450), due August 18, 1998		
	\$ 65,930	\$ 156,335
11.60% conditional sales contract, payable in monthly instalments of \$6,635 including interest, secured by a lien on 1991 Caterpillar loader (carrying value \$122,540), due April 1, 1998		
	19,096	96,125
Prime plus 1.75% conditional sales contract, payable in monthly instalments of \$4,990 including interest, secured by a lien on Caterpillar 14G Motor Grader (carrying value \$150,913), due March 11, 1999		
	70,831	121,519
Prime plus 1.5% demand loan, payable in monthly instalments of \$17,710 plus interest, secured by a general assignment of accounts receivable and a \$2,000,000 demand debenture over the Council's assets and equipment		
	470,373	779,160
Due to 923204 NWT Ltd., bearing interest at prime, unsecured and repayable on demand		
	119,000	284,023
5.95% Mortgage payable in monthly instalments of \$506 including interest, due May 1, 1998, secured by land and building with a carrying value of \$105,000		
	75,607	77,188
6.90% Canada's Northwest Territories Government Aurora Fund (1996) loan payable with annual principal reductions of \$19,250, secured by a first charge against the Council's aircraft, an assignment of the aircraft lease and guarantees and postponements of claims by the Council, due October 1, 2002		
	381,784	-
6.50% Canada's Northwest Territories Government Aurora Fund (1996) loan payable with annual principal reductions (1999 - \$12,000), secured by a first charge against the heat distribution system and guarantees and postponements of claim by the Council, due December 31, 2002		
	375,000	-
	1,577,621	1,514,350
Current portion of long-term debt		
	579,021	787,241
	\$ 998,600	\$ 727,109

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

## 10. Long-term debt, continued:

Although the prime plus 1.5% loan is due on demand, it has been classified as non-current as the bank has agreed to scheduled repayments over the next three years.

Long-term debt is repayable as follows:

1999	\$	579,021
2000		276,983
2001		100,583
2002		58,250
2003		562,784

## 11. Credit agreement:

The Council has entered into a credit agreement which includes a \$750,000 demand credit facility and a centralized cash control service. The Council and its subsidiaries have provided a general assignment of their accounts receivable and two of the Council's subsidiaries have provided \$1,000,000 demand debentures providing security interest in all assets as security for the demand credit facility. The Council and its subsidiaries have also provided guarantees and postponements of claim for their full liabilities and a general assignment of their book debts.

The credit agreement provides that interest will be charged at prime only if the centralized cash, in whole, is overdrawn.

The Council is currently negotiating new credit agreements to replace the demand credit facility and the centralized cash control service.

## 12. Income taxes:

The Council's subsidiaries have capital losses of \$437,832 available to offset future capital gains. In addition, the Council's subsidiaries have unclaimed capital cost allowance in excess of deductions available for book purposes of \$92,297 and long-term investments for which the tax values exceed the recorded net book value by \$369,061. Finally, Council's subsidiaries have losses carried forward for income tax purposes of \$636,084 available to reduce taxable income in future years up to 2004. The potential income tax benefit of these amounts has 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, 1998

## 13. Government assistance:

The Council received a grant from the Government of Canada in the amount of \$80,000 to provide employment experience and to enhance the employability of the Gwich'in.

## 14. Economic dependence:

Sales include significant amounts recognized from the following sources for contracts within the Gwich'in Settlement Area:

	1998	1997
Construction:		
Beaufort Delta Division Board of Education	\$ 2,097,946	\$ 6,360,540
Town of Inuvik	1,289,814	1,503,885
Government of the Northwest Territories	1,653,211	2,241,227
Trucking:		
GNWT Department of Transportation	3,140,930	3,033,267
Other sources	2,326,111	4,169,643
	\$ 10,508,012	\$ 17,308,562

An understanding is in place which results in 60% of contracts from the GNWT in the Gwich'in Settlement Area being awarded to Gwich'in organizations, including the Council.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

15. Investments in joint ventures:

The consolidated financial statements include the Council's proportionate share of the revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities of incorporated joint ventures as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Description, 1998, 1997. Rows include Assets (Current assets, Capital assets), Liabilities and equity (Accounts payable, Long-term debt, Equity and advances), Sales, Expenses (Cost of sales, Selling, general and administrative, Other), Loss before income taxes, Cash provided by (used in) (Operations, Financing, Investments), and Total increase in cash.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

16. 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.

Table with 5 columns: Description, Opening balance, Contributions net of distributions, Net investment earnings, Closing balance. Rows include Gwich'in Trust for the year ended March 31, 1998, Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust for the year ended December 31, 1997, and a summary row. Below this is another table with 5 columns: Description, 1998 Carrying value, 1998 Market value, 1997 Carrying value, 1997 Market value. Rows include Cash, Fixed income investments (Government and government-guaranteed bonds), Common stocks (Canadian, United States, International), and Accounts payable.



GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Land Claim Settlement Fund  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 1998

17. Change in non-cash operating working capital:

	1998	1997
Accounts receivable	\$ 484,460	\$ 313,764
Inventories	174,392	950,967
Prepaid expenses	(58,753)	69,780
Accounts payable	(827,670)	223,907
Unearned revenue	(701,501)	610,334
Minority interest	-	(16,002)
	\$ (929,072)	\$ 2,152,750

18. Comparative figures:

Certain comparative figures have been restated to amend the accounting for the Council's investments in Klondike River Lodge Ltd. and Aadrii Limited from the equity method to proportionate consolidation. This change has been applied retroactively and has increased amounts previously reported as total assets and total liabilities each by \$372,538 and total revenues and total expenses each by \$685,097.

